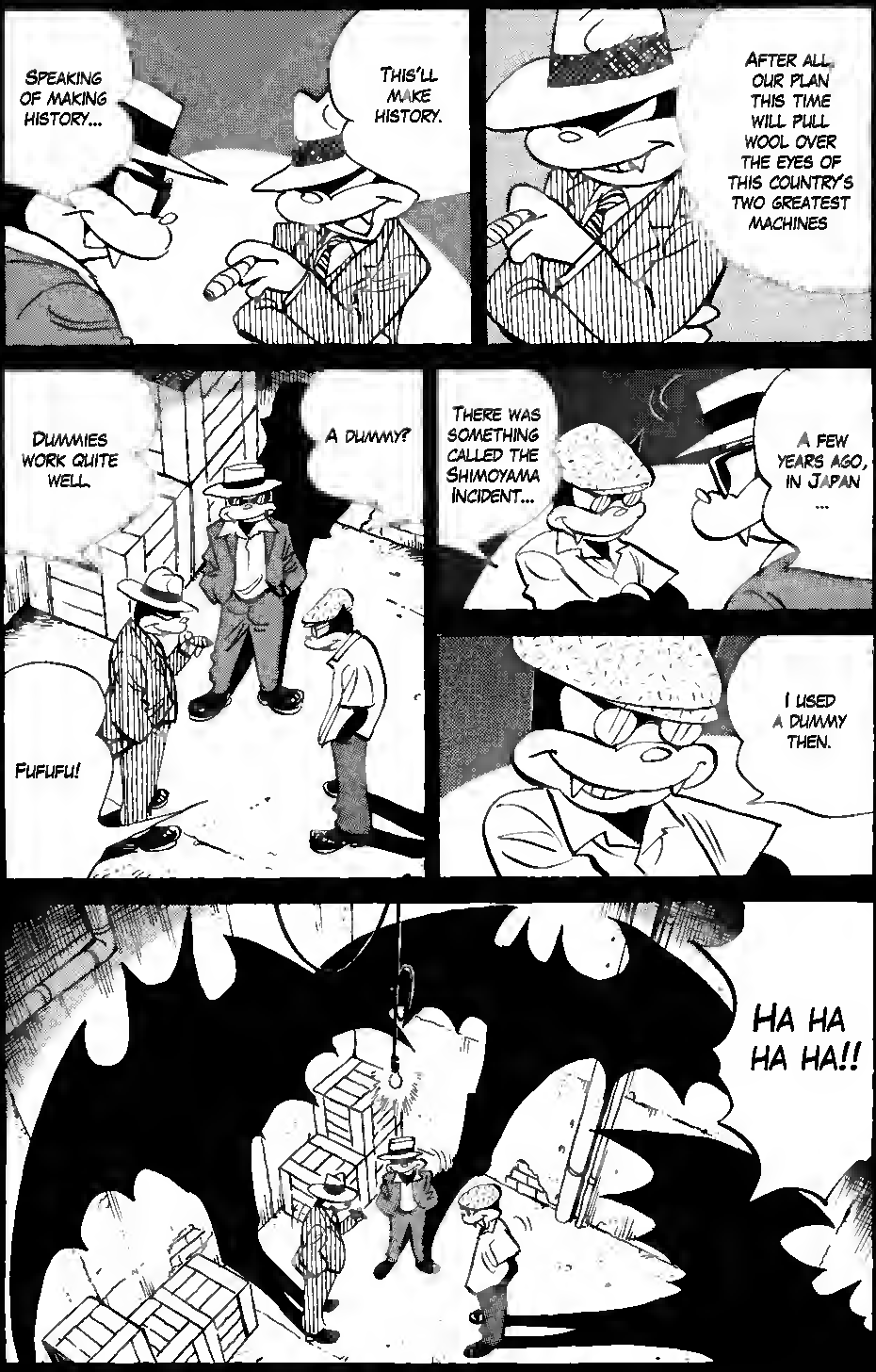
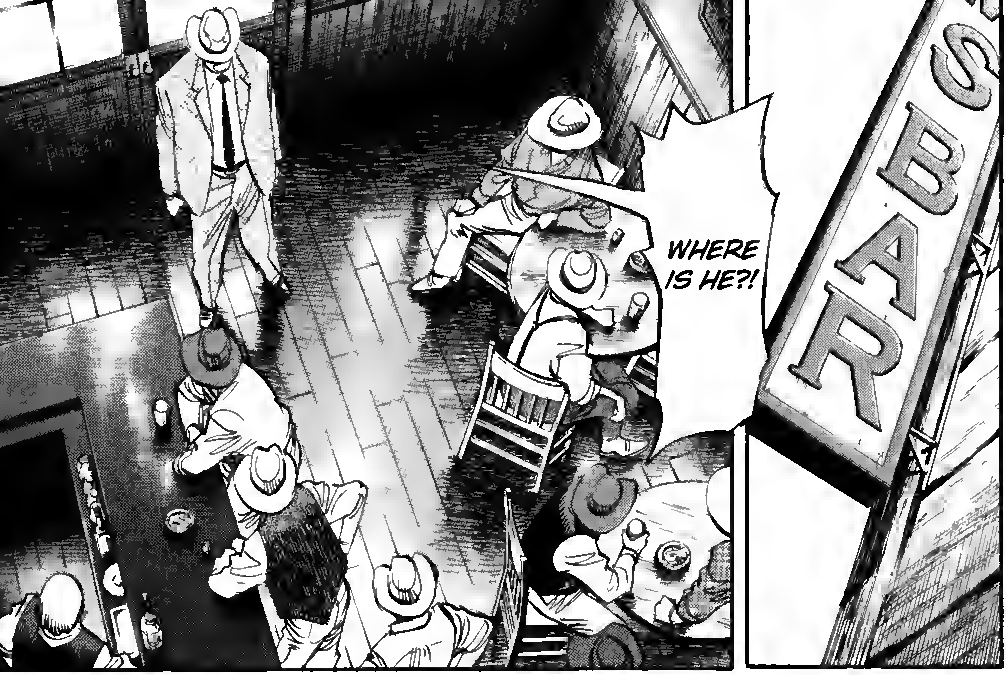
YOU MUST BE ONE DAGO-LOVIN' SOB TO WANNA MEET IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
KLOK
KLOK
HEH! I SUPPOSE IT'S BETTER THAN BEING FORCED TO HEAR THAT NOISE THOSE CUBANS CALL MUSIC.
I JUST THOUGHT IT'D BE A MORE RELAXING PLACE FOR A GLUM JAP LIKE YOU.
OH, SHOVE IT, YOU DAGO!!
WHAT'D YOU SAY, YOU DAMN JAP?!
YOU WANNA GO, CUBIE?!

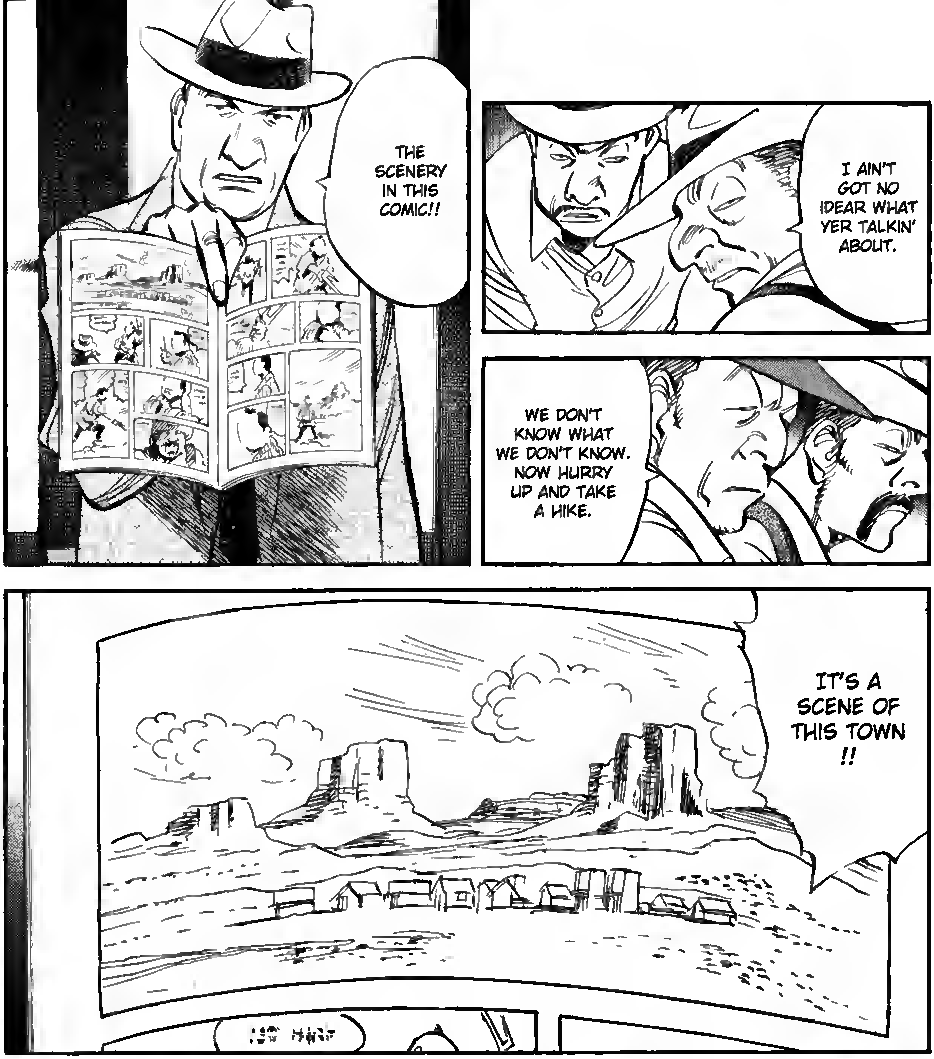
FUFU... AND THIS IS NO PAPER. IT'S A WEAPON THAT HAS SENT NUMEROUS PEOPLE OFF TO ANOTHER PLANE...
HEH! IF THESE SCISSORS WERE A GUN, YOU TWO'D BE DEAD RIGHT NOW.
WATCH IT, BUB. THIS AIN'T NO ROCK, IT'S A KNUCKLE SANDWICH!
KARATE CHOP.
THAT JAPANESE LEGEND...
SO THAT'S THE RUMORED ...
IT'S A COUP D'ETAT.
IT ISN'T AN ASSASSI-NATION.
THAT SOUNDS MORE PROMISING.
FUFU...
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE SWINGIN' THAT THING!
.....
...SHALL WE DISCUSS THE ASSASSINATION. THEN..?


SPEAKING OF MAKING HISTORY...
THIS'LL MAKE HISTORY.
AFTER ALL, OUR PLAN THIS TIME WILL PULL WOOL OVER THE EYES OF THIS COUNTRY'S TWO GREATEST MACHINES
DUMMIES WORK QUITE WELL.
A DUMMY?
FUFUFU!
THERE WAS SOMETHING CALLED THE SHIMOYAMA INCIDENT...
A FEW YEARS AGO, IN JAPAN ...
I USED A DUMMY THEN.
HA HA HA HA!!

CHAPTER 33: THE JAPANESE AUTHENTICATION


WHERE IS HE?!
BAR

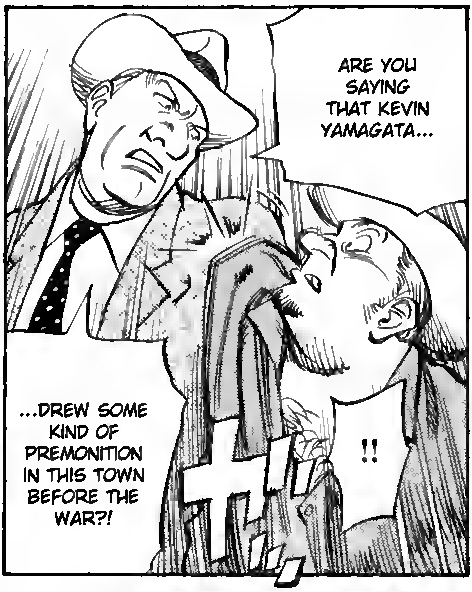
WHERE IS KEVIN YAMA-GATA?!


THE SCENERY IN THIS COMIC!!
I AIN'T GOT NO IDEAR WHAT YER TALKIN' ABOUT.
WE DON'T KNOW WHAT WE DON'T KNOW. NOW HURRY UP AND TAKE A HIKE.
IT'S A SCENE OF THIS TOWN !!
THAT MAKES TWO OF US.
I JUST MOVED HERE, SO I DON'T KNOW NOTHIN' 'BOUT NO COMIC
NAH, THREE!
THIS WAS... MADE BEFORE THE WAR.
Texas Bounty Hunter
PISTOL HAIR
Goes West
WOAH, WOAH... WHEN WAS THAT COMIC DRAWN?

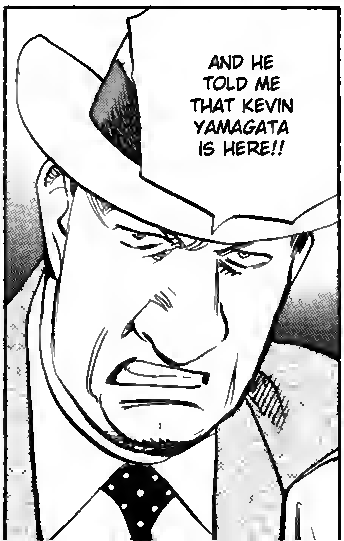
THAT GRAFFITI WAS DRAWN RECENTLY!!
.....
HOW ABOUT THE GRAFFITI ON THE HOUSE OUTSIDE OF TOWN, THEN?
THE PICTURE OF THE TRAIN IN THAT GRAFFITI...
THE SHIMOYAMA CASE HAPPENED AFTER THE WAR WITH JAPAN!!
SO IT'S A PRE-MONITION?

はっはっはっはっは
A PRE-MONITION, EH?! THAT'S A GOOD ONE!
THAT'S IT, THAT'S GOTTA BE IT!
YEAH, A PRE-MONITION !!

HEY, LET HIM GO.


ARE YOU SAYING THAT KEVIN YAMAGATA...
...DREW SOME KIND OF PREMONITION IN THIS TOWN BEFORE THE WAR?!
!!

WHAT ARE YOU PEOPLE HIDING?!


AND HE TOLD ME THAT KEVIN YAMAGATA IS HERE!!

I HEARD ABOUT THIS PLACE FROM PRESIDENT TOUGO OF FUJIYAMA PUBLISHING IN LA!!

CHAK
YOU PEOPLE...
...IS THAT HOW YOU KILLED KEVIN YAMA-GATA?!
DIS-APPEAR.
IF YOU DISAPPEAR NOW, WE'LL SPARE YOUR LIFE.

BASTARD!!

YOU..!!
GET ANY CLOSER AND HE'LL BE WIDE OPEN!!

THE COMIC DRAWN WITH THIS TOWN AS ITS SETTING...
"TEXAS BOUNTY HUNTER: MR. PISTOL HAIR GOES WEST"...
...IT WAS REALLY ENTERTAINING! I BECAME A FAN IMMEDIATELY.
THE MAIN CHARACTER, SHERIFF SABUKICHI...
HE WAS A MAN WHO PROTECTED THE PEACE OF HIS TOWN WITHOUT CARRYING A GUN..!!
THAT SHERIFF WAS A FINE MAN.
BUT LOOK WHAT I FIND WHEN I ACTUALLY GET TO THIS PLACE!!

THIS TOWN IS EXACTLY THE KIND OF PLACE THAT NEEDS SOMEONE LIKE SHERIFF PISTOL HAIR!!
IT'S NOTHING PUT A NEST OF OUTDATED LOWLIFES!!
HE'S A MARSHALL.
HE AIN'T NO SHERIFF.
NO, HE AIN'T.
?
THAT'S RIGHT, SABUKICHI WASN'T A SHERIFF...
YEAH, HE WAS A MARSHALL.
HUH?

AH.. AHH...
YOU CALL YOURSELF A FAN, AND YOU CAN'T EVEN REMEMBER SOMETHING BASIC LIKE THAT?
N . NO, I REALLY AM A FAN OF KEVIN YAMAGATA.
THEN IF YOU'RE A FAN, YOU MUST HAVE READ ALL OF BILLY BAT.

OKAY, WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SCENE?
YES, OF COURSE ...

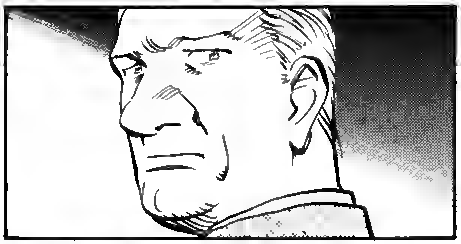
WHERE HE SAYS GOODBYE TO CORNELIUS THE ORANG-UTAN!!
WELL, THAT'D HAVE TO BE THE LAST SCENE IN "BILLY BAT'S JUNGLE ADVENTURE".

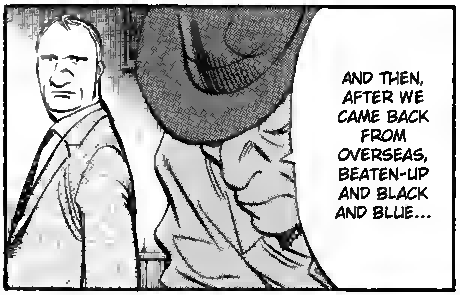
DAMN STRAIGHT.
BILLYLAND'S. .
..ATTORNEY ..?
IF YOU'RE THAT BIG OF A FAN, THEN WHY ...
WHY ARE YOU ACTING AS BILLYLAND'S ATTORNEY?
THAT HE CAME TO RUB OUT KEVIN'S REAL BILLY FROM THIS WORLD!!
YOU CAME HERE TO PROVE THAT THE FAKE BILLY BAT THAT CHUCK CULKIN DRAWS IS THE REAL ONE, DIDN'T YOU?
HUH?

I...
I'M NO ATTORNEY.
I WORK FOR A BUREAU OF THE GOVERNMENT.
I CAME TO INFORM KEVIN YAMAGATA...
...THAT HE IS IN DANGER ...
CHAK
THE CHAMBER'S EMPTY...
YOU GUYS..

Texas Bounty Hunter
Mr. PISTOL HAIR
Goes West
"TEXAS BOUNTY HUNTER: MR. PISTOL HAIR GOES WEST".
HE LIVED HERE FOR A BIT WHILE DRAWING IT.

KEVIN DREW A COMIC SET IN THIS TOWN BEFORE THE WAR.



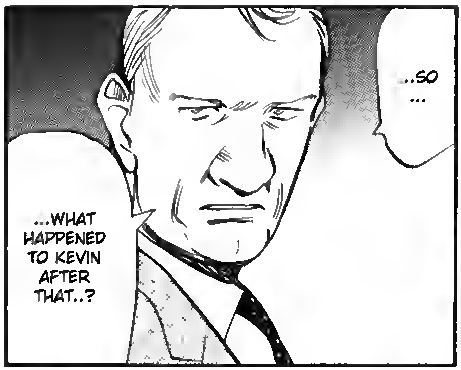

AND THEN, AFTER WE CAME BACK FROM OVERSEAS, BEATEN-UP AND BLACK AND BLUE...

OUR TOWN'S GOT NOTHIN', AND YET HE MADE SUCH A GREAT COMIC OUT OF IT.
THIS COMIC IS OUR PRIDE AND JOY.
Texas Bounty Hunter
Mr. PISTOL HAIR
Goes West

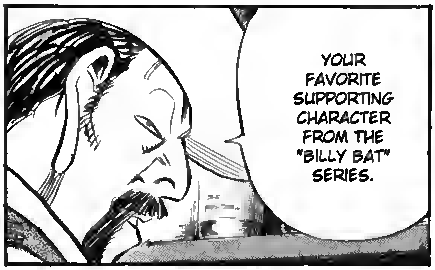
"BILLY BAT".
BILLY BAT

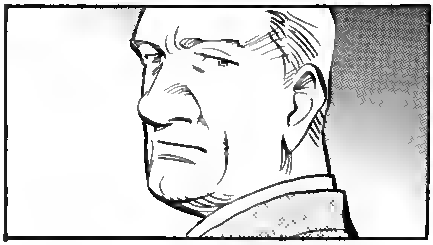
... WE CAME ACROSS ANOTHER COMIC.

BILLY BAT
OUR MAN, KEVIN YAMAGATA!!
AND WE KNEW WHO THE ARTIST WAS THE MINUTE WE SAW IT!!
IT WAS AMAZING.
..AT A CERTAIN POINT, "BILLY BAT" WENT TO THE DOGS.
BUT...
THE ART GOT CRUMMY, AND IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE AUTHOR HAD CHANGED.
AND BEFORE WE KNEW IT, IT TURNED INTO A CARTOON, AND THERE WAS EVEN AN AMUSEMENT PARK BUILT AROUND IT
THE WORLD IS A STRANGE PLACE, THOUGH .. YOU SEE, AS SOON AS THAT HAPPENED, IT GOT EVEN MORE POPULAR.

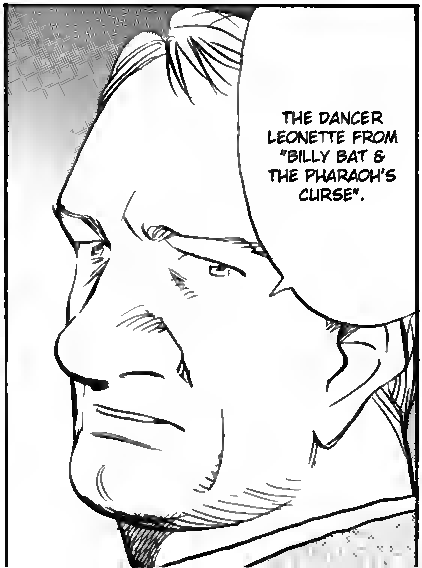

...WHAT HAPPENED TO KEVIN AFTER THAT..?
...SO ...

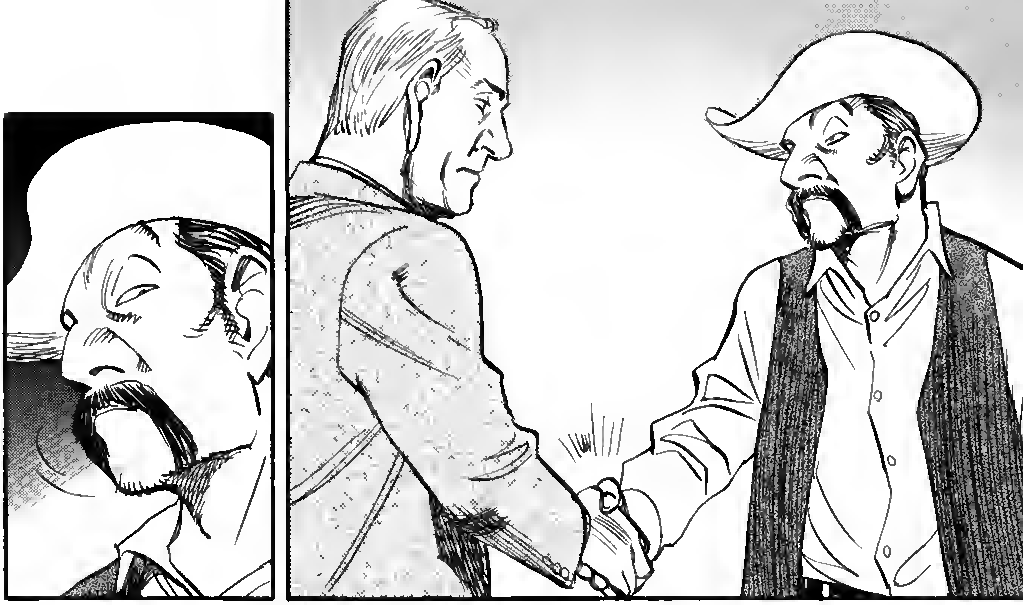
BUT THAT ONE'S A FAKE.

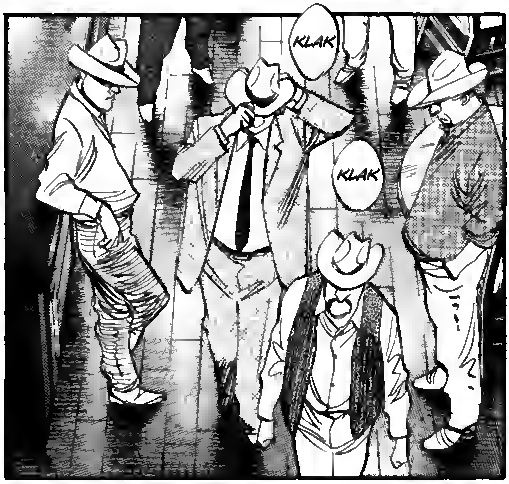

YOUR FAVORITE SUPPORTING CHARACTER FROM THE "BILLY BAT" SERIES.



WHO'S YOUR FAVORITE SUPPORTING CHARACTER?

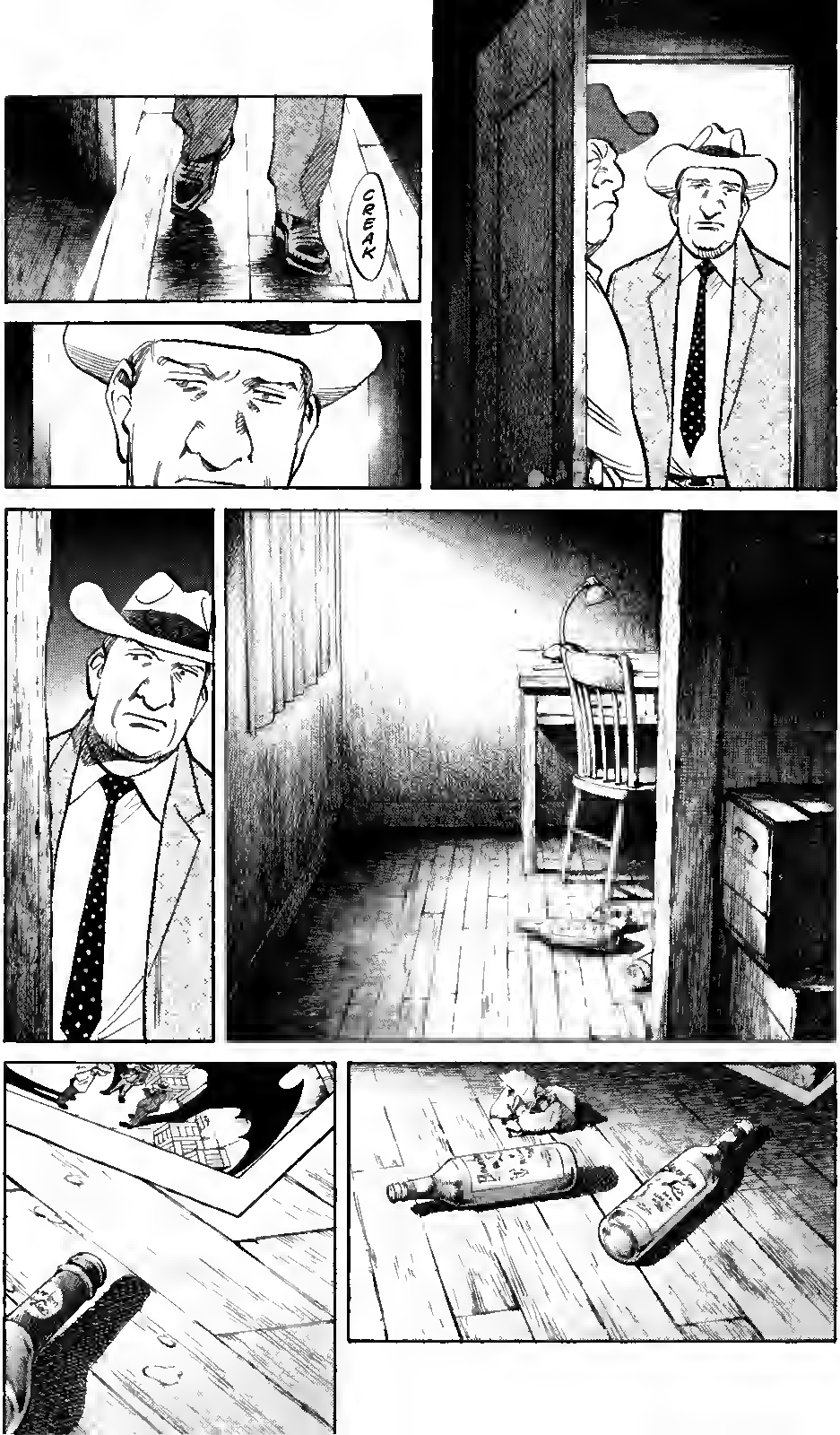

THE DANCER LEONETTE FROM "BILLY BAT & THE PHARAOH'S CURSE".

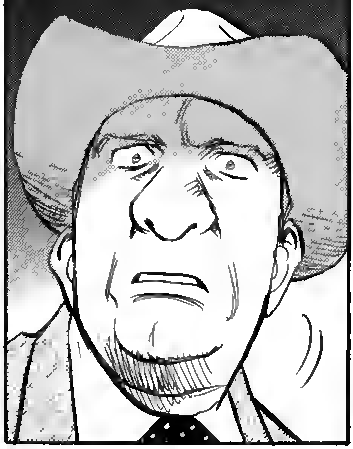



KLAK
KLAK

CREAK

.....

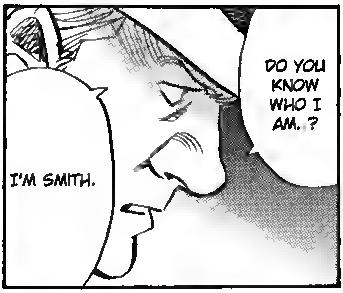

CREAK



KEVIN...
YAMAGATA
..

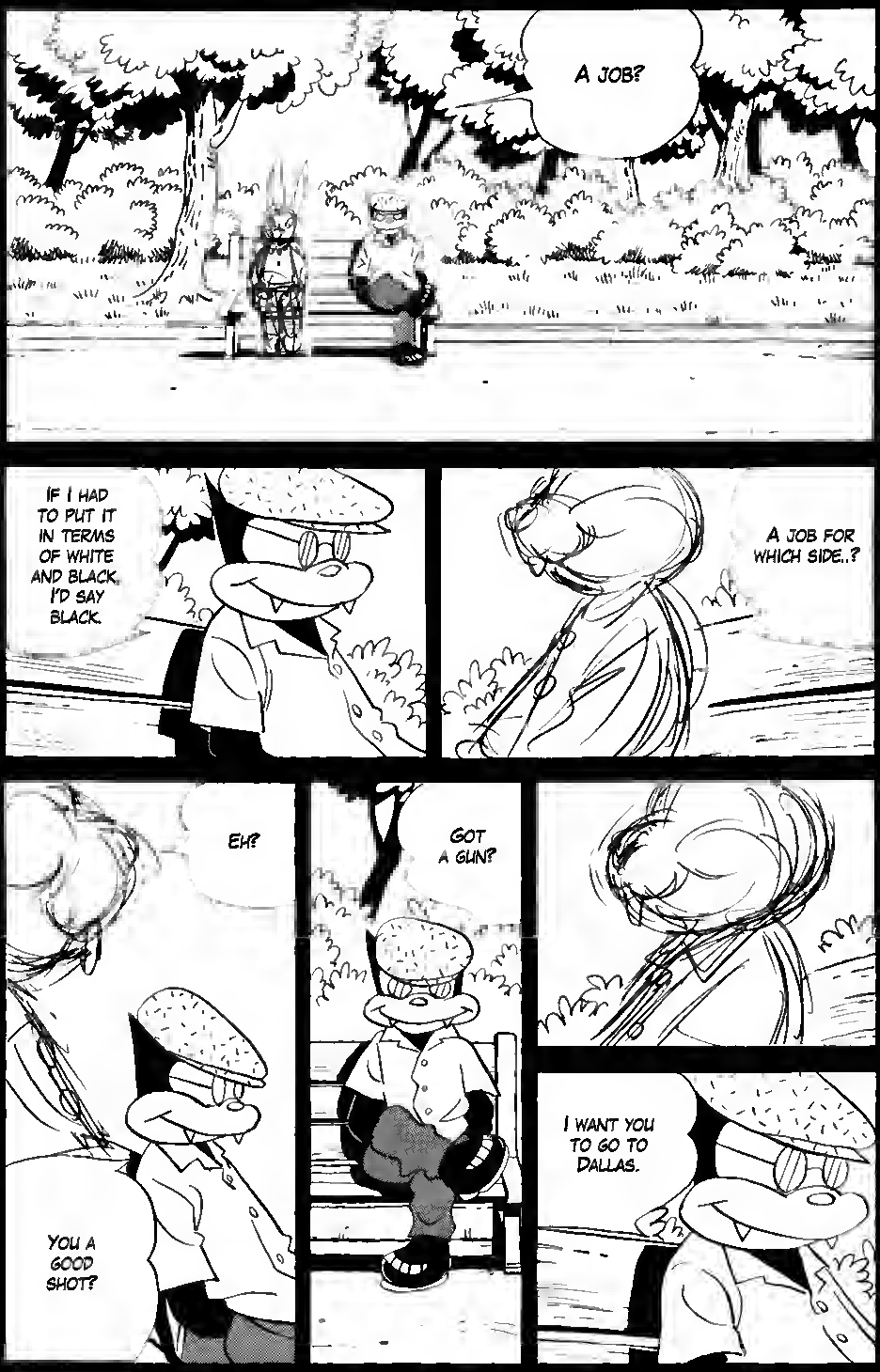
I DON'T WANT TO SEE...

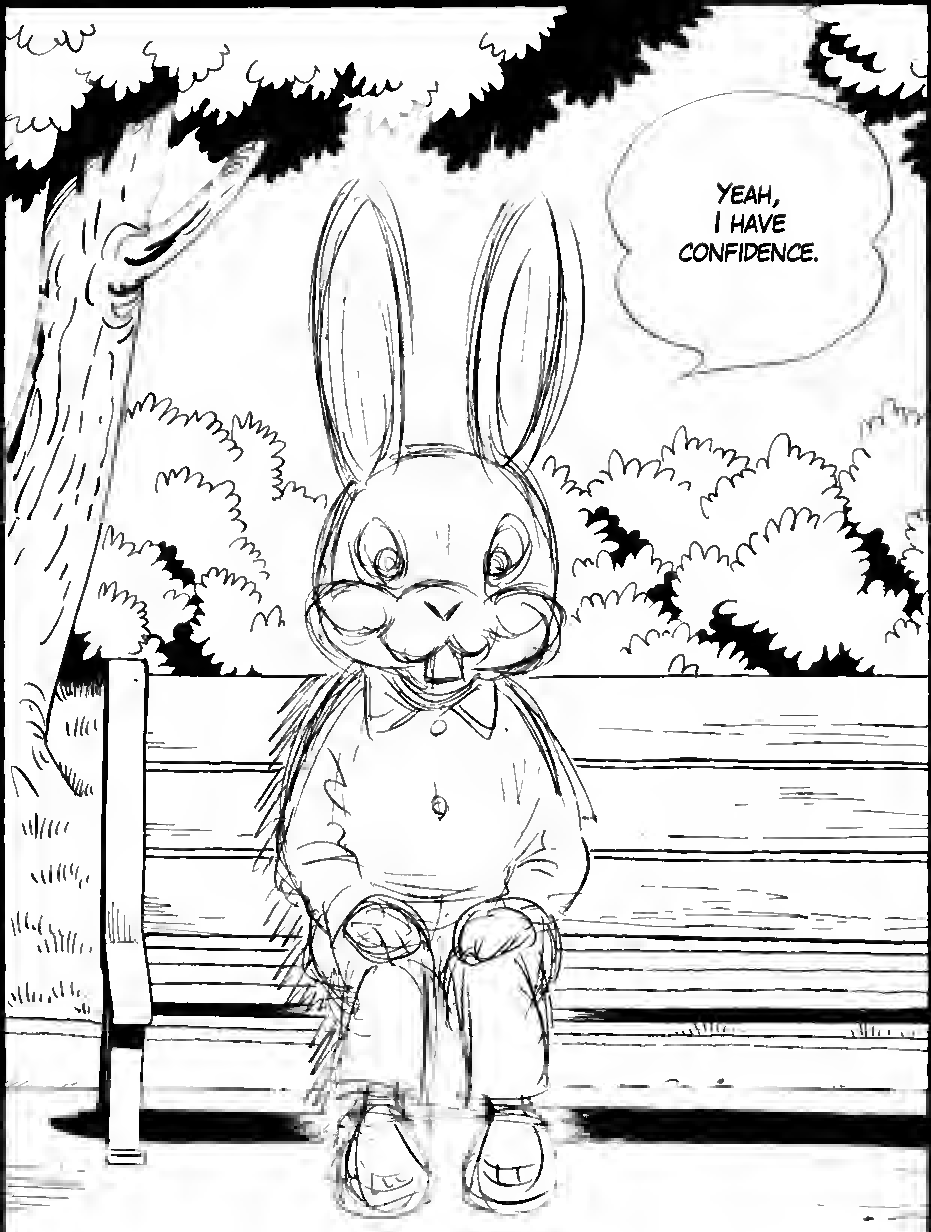
HUH .. WHAT?


DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM. ?
I'M SMITH.

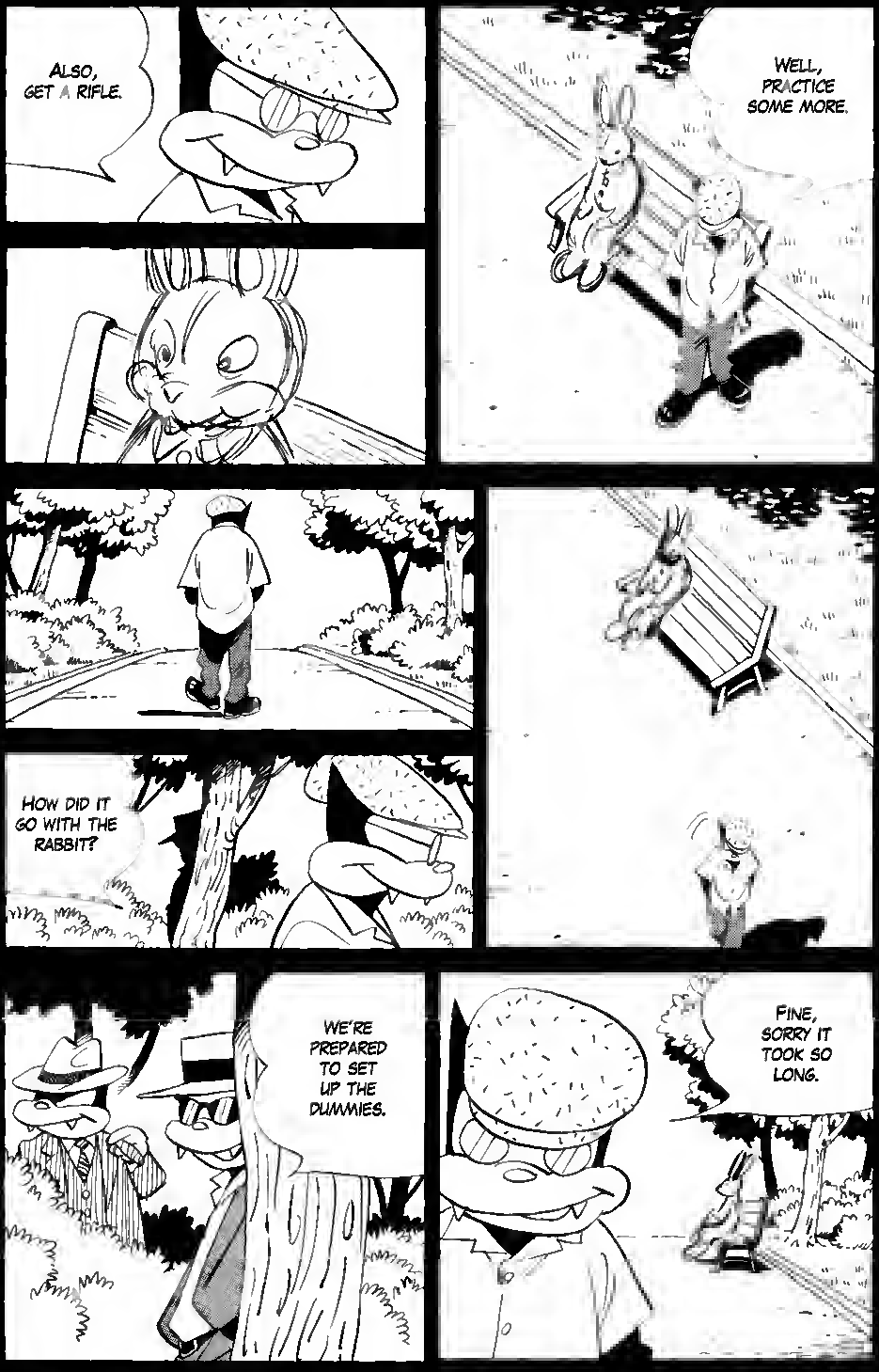
!!

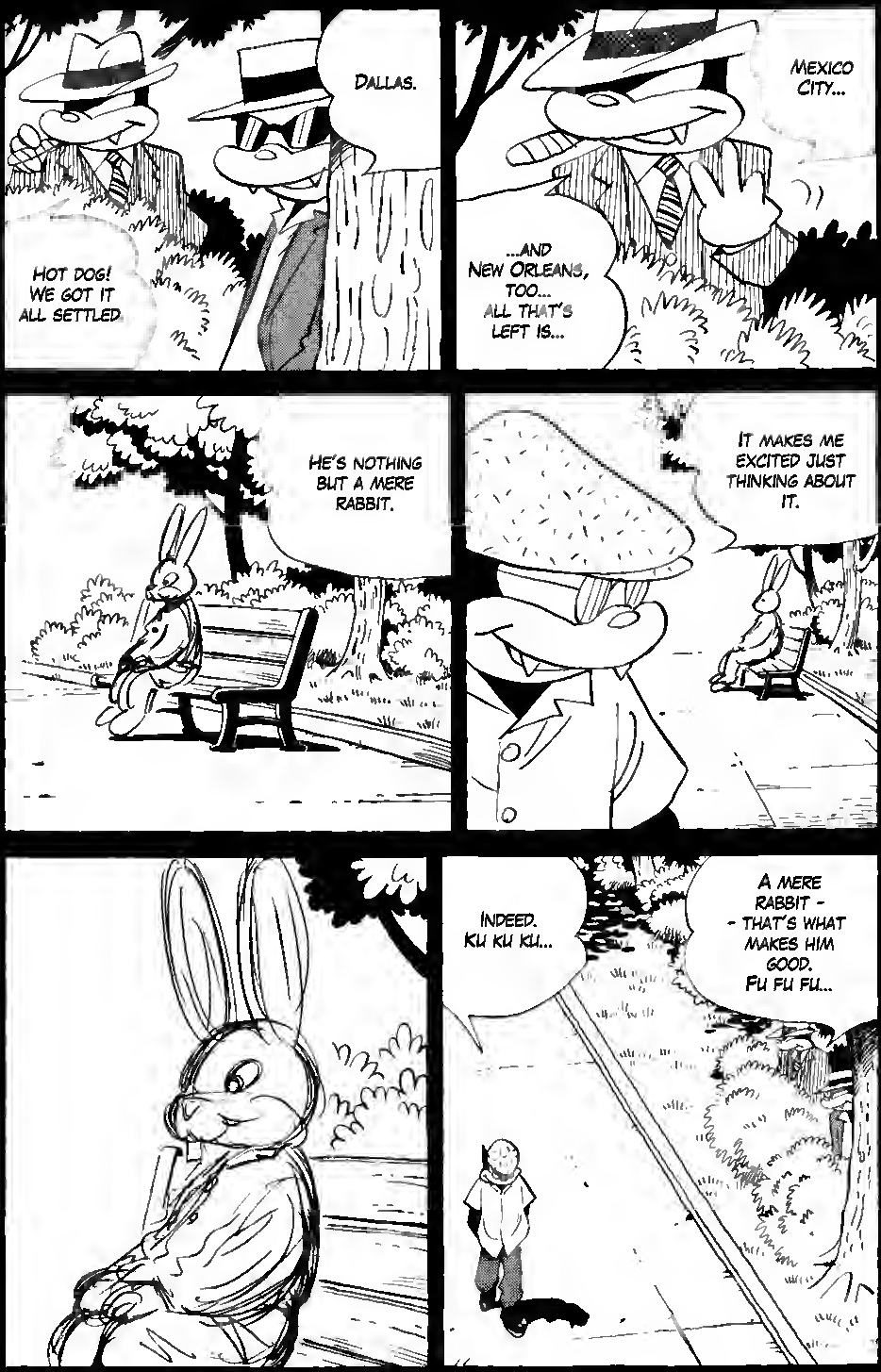
...LEMME DRINK SOME MORE...
SO...
I DON'T WANT TO SEE IT...
WHAT'S THAT?
THE BAT...
I DON'T WANT TO SEE...

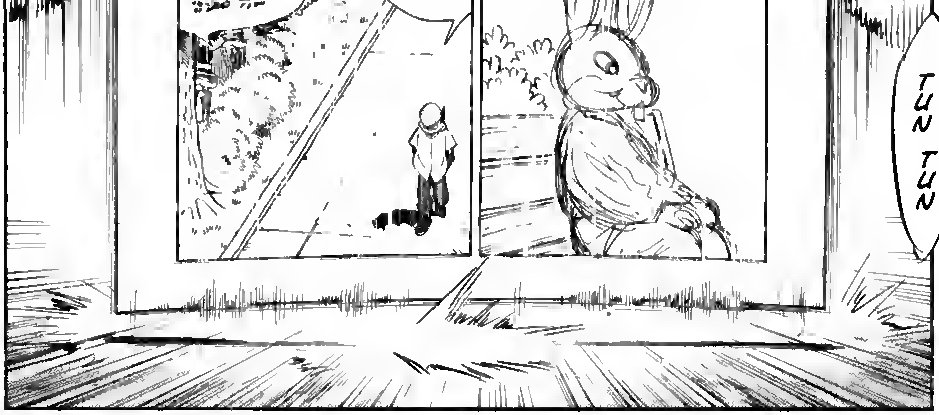

A JOB?
IF I HAD TO PUT IT IN TERMS OF WHITE AND BLACK, I'D SAY BLACK.
A JOB FOR WHICH SIDE..?
EH?
GOT A GUN?
YOU A GOOD SHOT?
I WANT YOU TO GO TO DALLAS.



CHAPTER 34 A CONTINUATION OF A CONTINUATION


ALSO, GET A RIFLE.
WELL, PRACTICE SOME MORE.
HOW DID IT GO WITH THE RABBIT?
WE'RE PREPARED TO SET UP THE DUMMIES.
FINE, SORRY IT TOOK SO LONG.


DALLAS.
HOT DOG! WE GOT IT ALL SETTLED.
MEXICO CITY...
...AND NEW ORLEANS, TOO... ALL THAT'S LEFT IS...
HE'S NOTHING BUT A MERE RABBIT.
IT MAKES ME EXCITED JUST THINKING ABOUT IT.
INDEED. KU KU KU...
A MERE RABBIT - - THAT'S WHAT MAKES HIM GOOD. FU FU FU...


TUN TUN

TUN TUN

WAKE UP, KEVIN YAMAGATA.
KEVIN YAMAGATA
KEVIN...

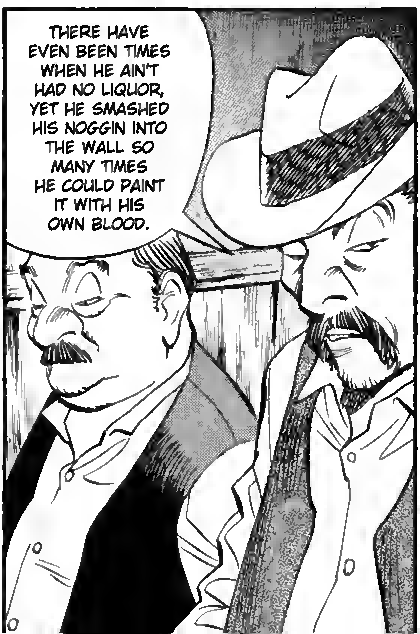
...WAKE ME UP..
DON'T...

...THE BAT...
I DON'T WANT TO SEE..

.. THE BAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN..
TELL ME WHAT THE BAT IS.
STOP!!

..IT COMES FOR ME..!!
WHEN I'M SOBER..
GIMME MY BOOZE..!!
GIMME IT BACK ..!!
ENOUGH ALREADY!!
AS LONG AS I'M DRUNK, IT DOESN'T SHOW UP...
LET ME DRINK..!!
IT..?
AS LONG AS I'M DRUNK, THE BAT DOESN'T SHOW UP..!!

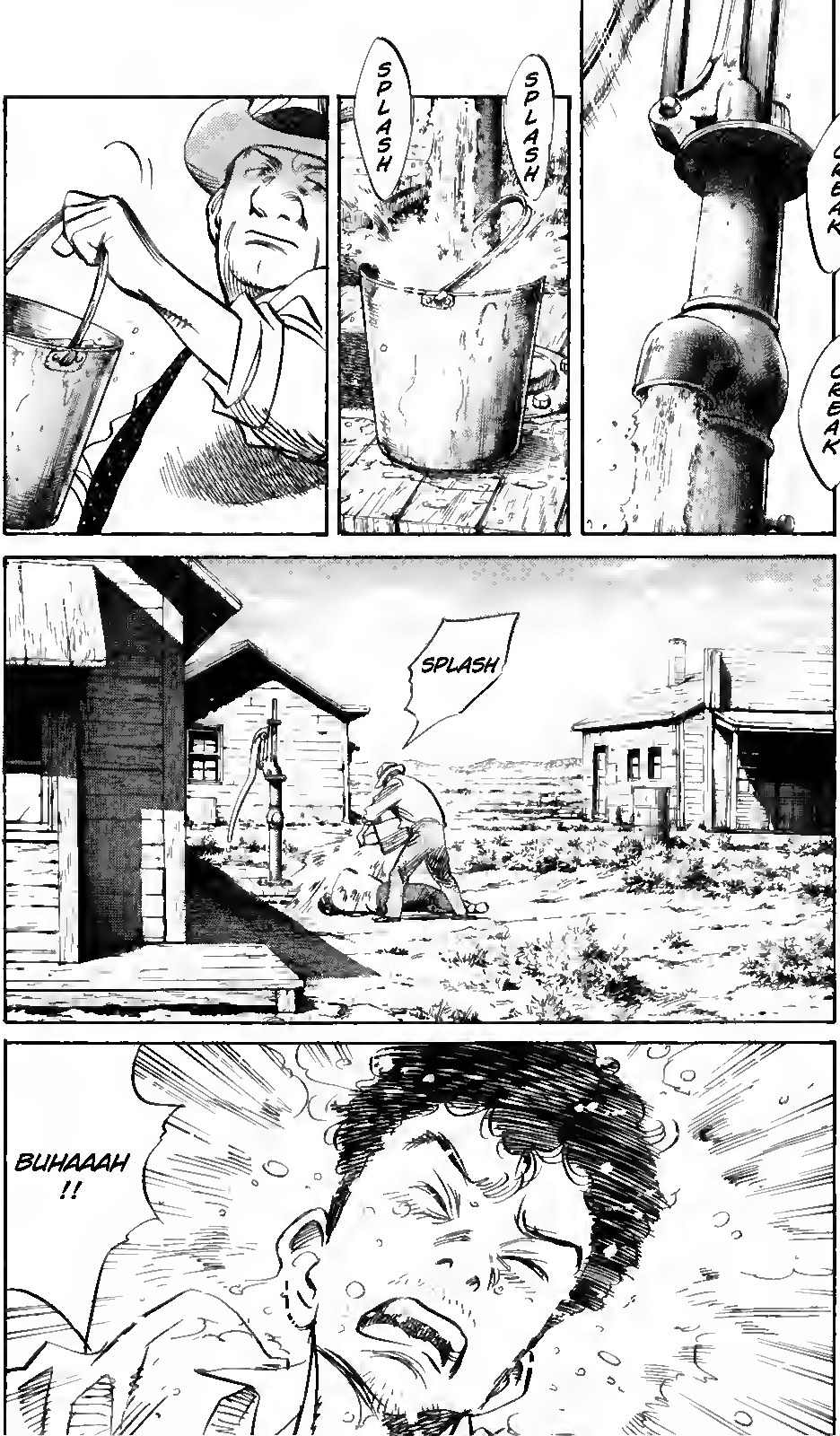
SLUMP
NUOHH
!!


THERE HAVE EVEN BEEN TIMES WHEN HE AIN'T HAD NO LIQUOR, YET HE SMASHED HIS NOGGIN INTO THE WALL SO MANY TIMES HE COULD PAINT IT WITH HIS OWN BLOOD.

WHY DID YOU LET HIM DRINK THIS MUCH?

BECAUSE HE GOES CRAZY WHEN HE'S SOBER...

Fuckin' Bat!!
Kinoyama
SASSIN
Ninja
OPEN UP.


SPLASH
SPLASH
CREAK
CREAK
SPLASH
BUHAAAH
!!

WHAT IS THE BAT?
WH...WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
COUGH, COUGH!
GUFUHH !!
TELL ME WHAT THE BAT IS!!
THE BAT ...
DARKNESS AND LIGHT ...
BLACK AND WHITE...

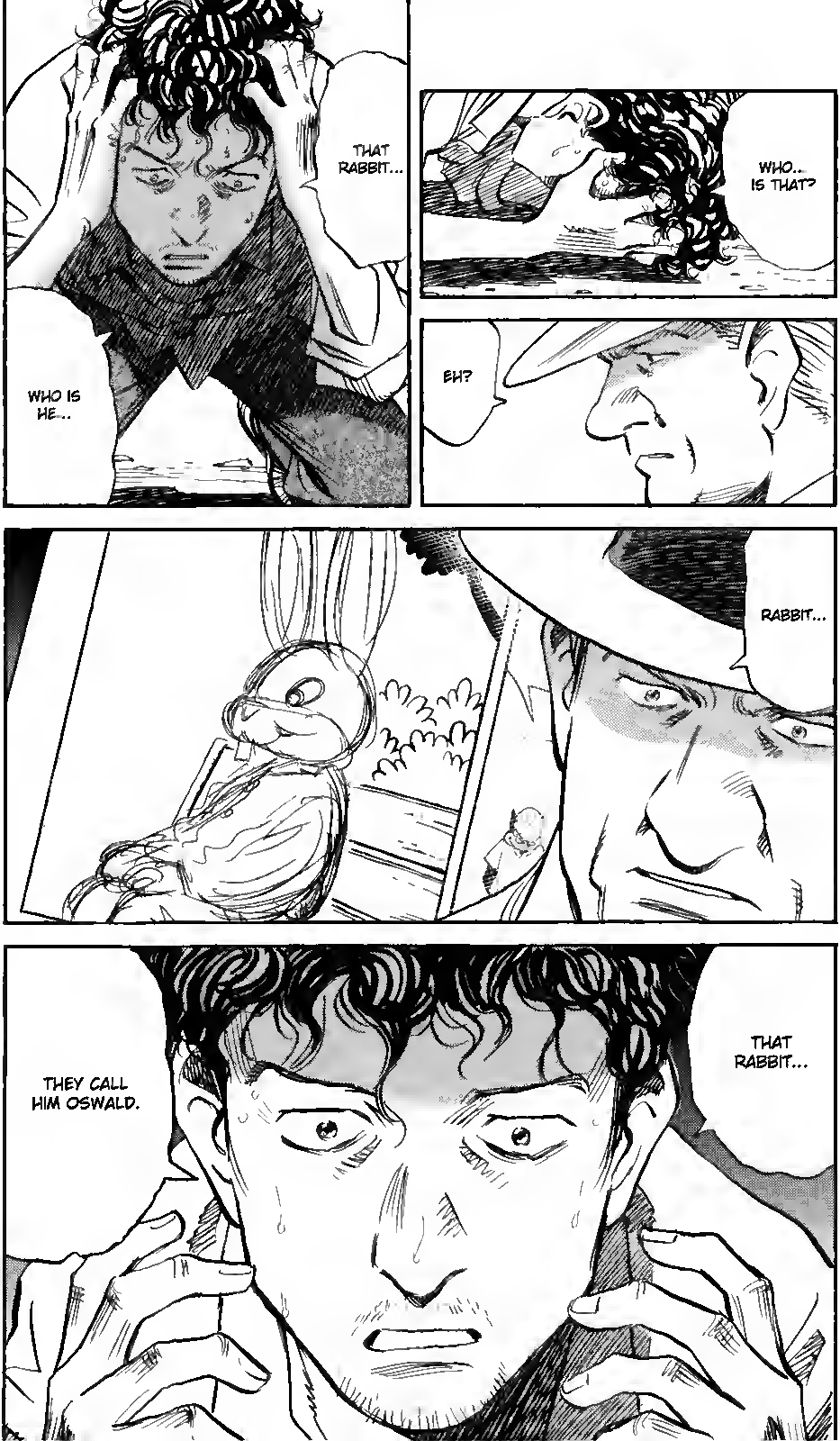
GOOD AND EVIL...
THAT'S WHAT THE BAT IS?
.....
AND YOU CAN SEE THESE BATS? WHICH ONE CAN YOU SEE?
.....
NO... JUST ONE, MAYBE...
TWO..?
WHICH ONE..?
WHICH ONE DO YOU SEE?
THE DARK ONE AND THE LIGHT ONE...
I DON'T KNOW ..

I DON'T KNOW...
IT TRIES TO FORCE ME TO DRAW..
IT MAKES ME DRAW...
JUST WHAT IS THIS BAT...
DRAW WHAT?
DRAW ABOUT THE SHIMOYAMA INCIDENT, FOR EXAMPLE..?

THAT WAS ZOFUU-SENSEI'S WORK!!
NOT THAT!!
ZOFUU-SENSEI...
THE BAT PROBABLY APPEARED BEFORE HIM TOO AND MADE HIM DRAW THAT!!
...AND THIS ZOFUU-SENSEI, HE..?
TOLD ME TO COME BACK TO AMERICA..
THAT I'M THE ONLY ONE..
...WHO CAN STOP IT..

THAT I HAVE TO DRAW THE CONTINUATION ...
...AND YOU STOP IT.
YOU DRAW THE CONT-INUATION, ...
NOOOOOO!!

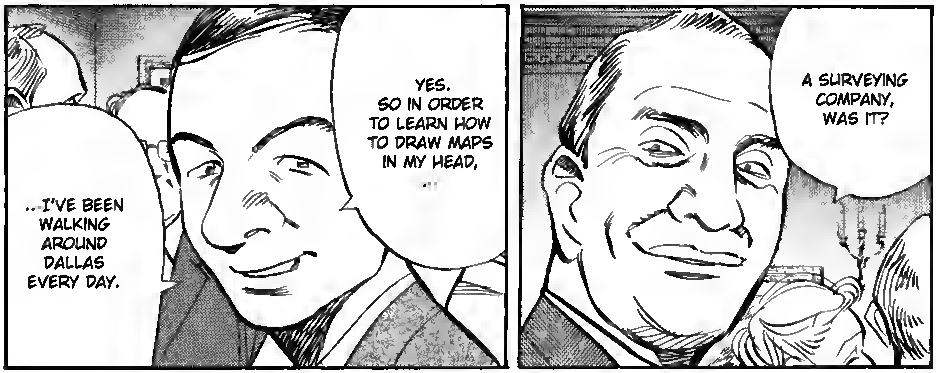
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW!!
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ANY-MORE!!
.....!!
ABOUT THE BIG BOSS OF THE OIL INDUSTRY AND WEAPONS DEALERS!!
OR ABOUT HOW GOOD A SHOT HE IS!!
HAAH
HAAH
HAAH
DUMMIES!!
BLACKS, WHITES!!

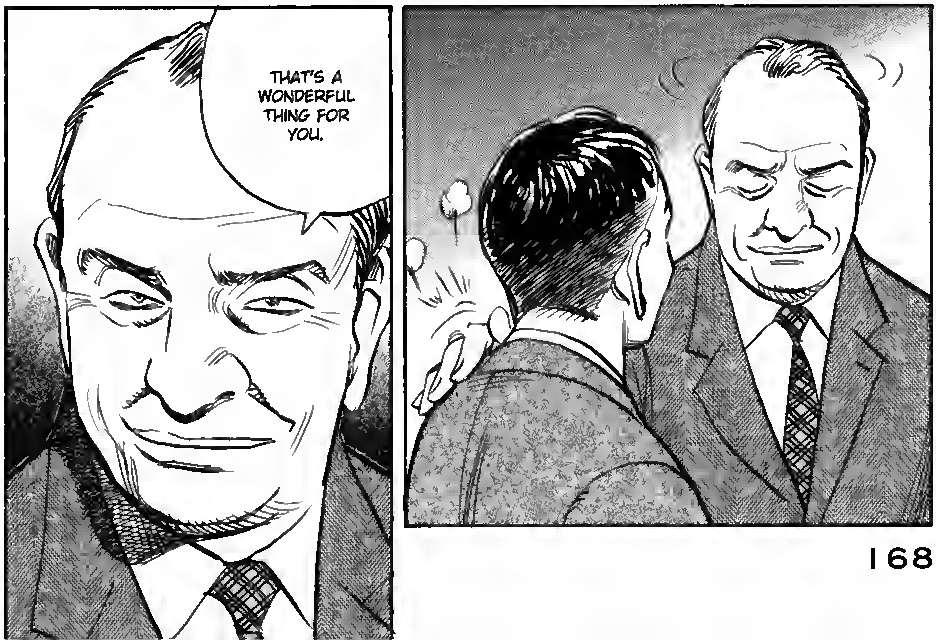

THAT RABBIT...
WHO IS HE...
WHO... IS THAT?
EH?
RABBIT...
THEY CALL HIM OSWALD.
THAT RABBIT...

WHO...
OSWALD...
...IS HE?

!!
.....
I'M MORENSCHILDT.
MR. OSWALD, I PRESUME?
AH...

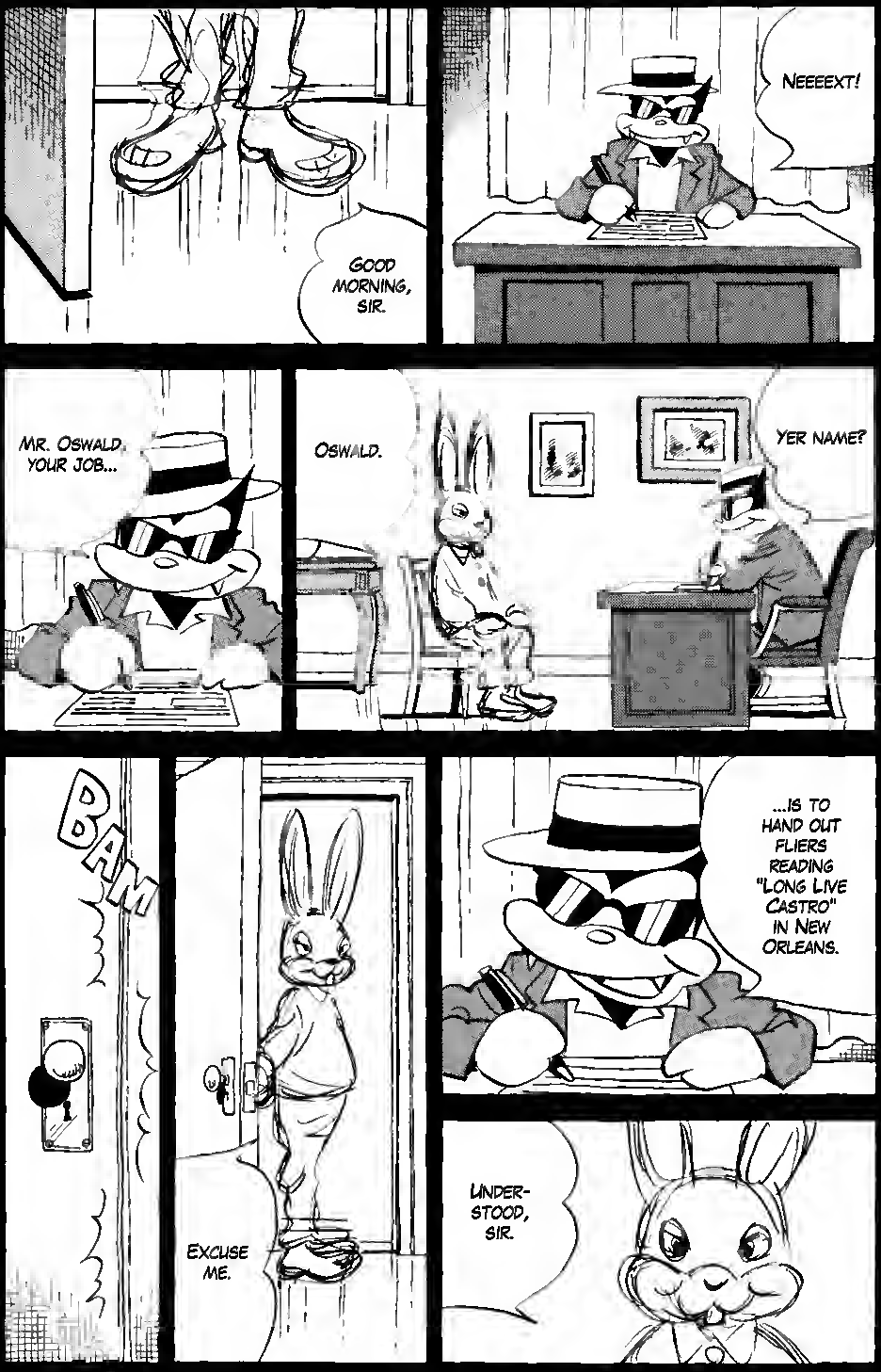
WELCOME TO THE WHITE RUSSIAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY PARTY.
WELL, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR INVITING ME.
HOW GOES YOUR NEW LIFE HERE? ADJUSTING WELL?
OF COURSE! YOU GOT ME EVERYTHING I NEEDED, EVEN A JOB.

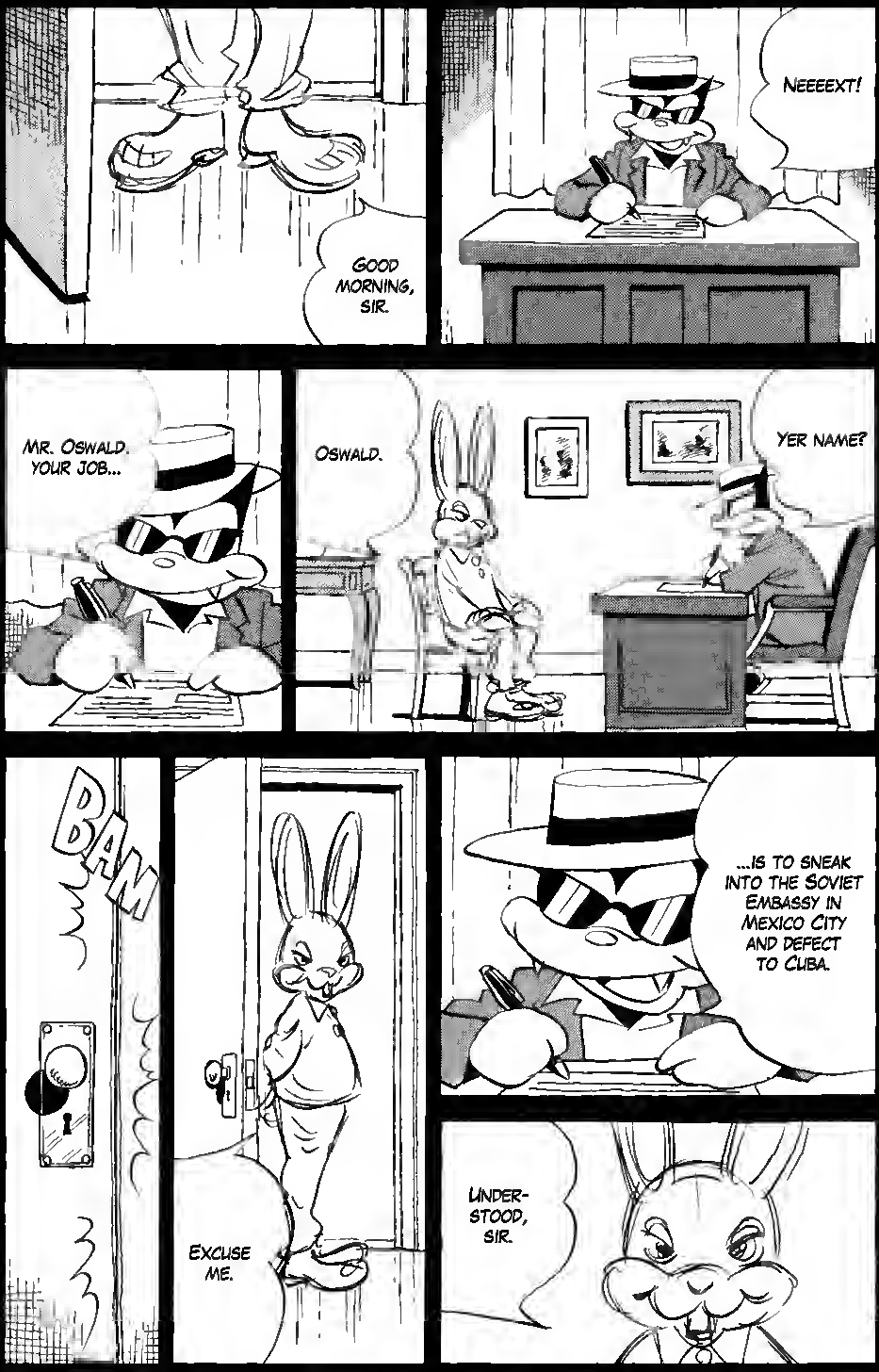

A SURVEYING COMPANY, WAS IT?
YES. SO IN ORDER TO LEARN HOW TO DRAW MAPS IN MY HEAD,
...I'VE BEEN WALKING AROUND DALLAS EVERY DAY.

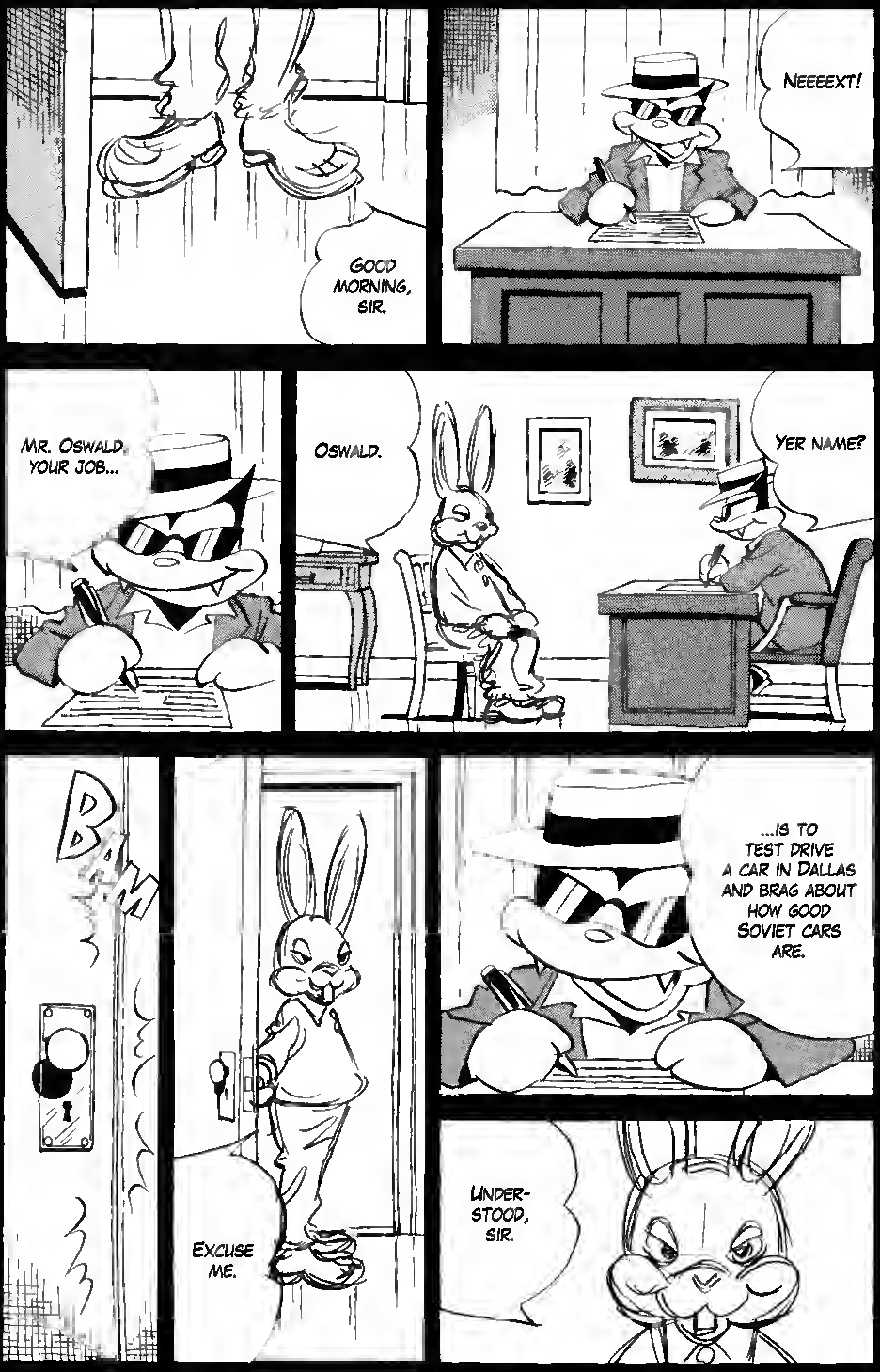

THAT'S A WONDERFUL THING FOR YOU.

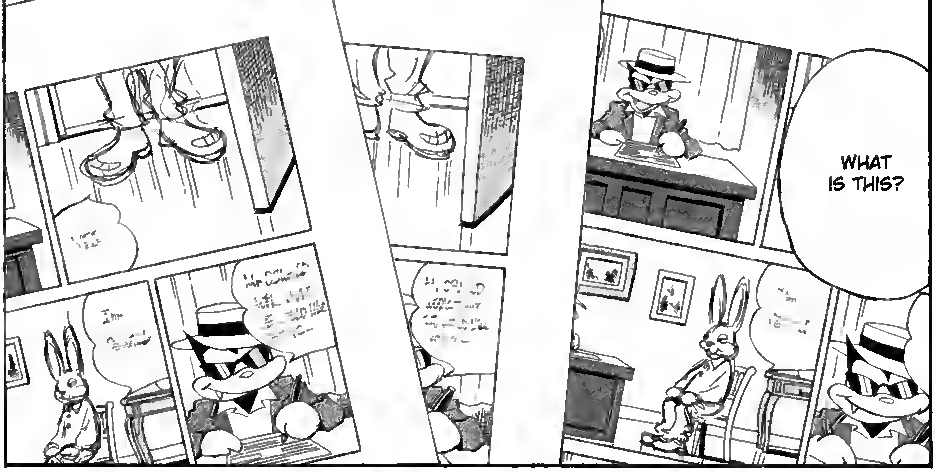
DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH THAT ACCUMULATING WILL COME IN HANDY FOR YOU?
YES, SIR?
YES, SIR?
NO, RATHER - - HOW MUCH IT WILL COME IN HANDY FOR THE COUNTRY?
MM...AHH.
YES, SIR!!
SURELY YOUR WIFE MUST ALSO BE PLEASED.
YES SIR.
I HAVE GREAT EXPECT-ATIONS FOR YOU, MY BOY.
EXCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT.

YOU WILL BECOME A HERO.
MR. OSWALD.


GOOD MORNING, SIR.
NEEEEXT!
MR. OSWALD. YOUR JOB...
OSWALD.
YER NAME?
BAM
EXCUSE ME.
...IS TO HAND OUT FLIERS READING "LONG LIVE CASTRO" IN NEW ORLEANS.
UNDER-STOOD, SIR.

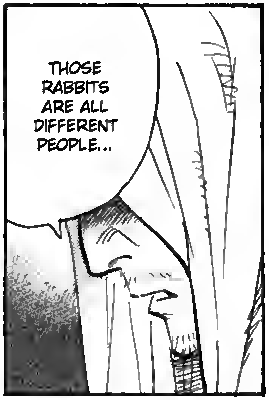

GOOD MORNING, SIR.
NEEEEXT!
MR. OSWALD. YOUR JOB...
OSWALD.
YER NAME?
BAM
EXCUSE ME.
...IS TO SNEAK INTO THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN MEXICO CITY AND DEFECT TO CUBA.
UNDER-STOOD, SIR.


GOOD MORNING, SIR.
NEEEEXT!
MR. OSWALD, YOUR JOB...
OSWALD.
YER NAME?
BAM
EXCUSE ME.
...IS TO TEST DRIVE A CAR IN DALLAS AND BRAG ABOUT HOW GOOD SOVIET CARS ARE.
UNDER-STOOD, SIR.


WHAT IS THIS?

YOU'VE DRAWN THE SAME PAGE OVER AND OVER ...

THEY AREN'T THE SAME.


THOSE RABBITS ARE ALL DIFFERENT PEOPLE...

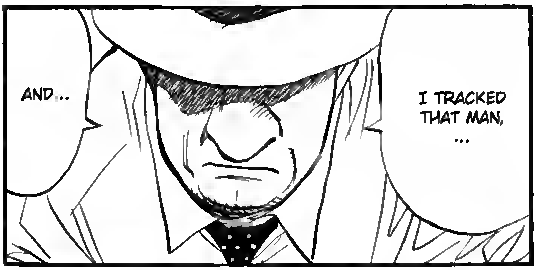
WELL, THAT'S TRUE, BUT...

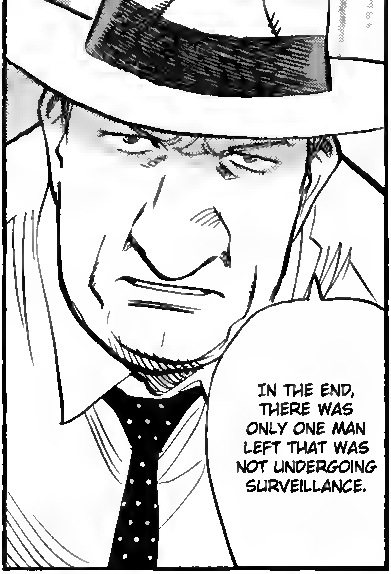
THE LINES ARE DIFFERENT...
THEY LOOK EXACTLY THE SAME TO ME..

CHAPTER 35 AN OSWALD DOSE OF JOY

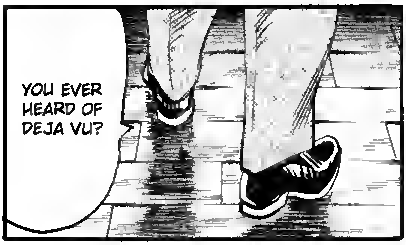
DUMMIES ...
IS THAT WHAT THE BAT TOLD YOU?
.....
KEVIN YAMAGATA ...
DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
SMITH..
THAT'S ALL I KNOW ABOUT YOU...
I WAS DOING AN INTERNAL INSPECTION IN THE DEPARTMENT YOU BELONGED TO.
MY DEPARTMENT AND ANOTHER WERE PLANNING SOMETHING BIG TOGETHER.
SOMETHING BIG..?

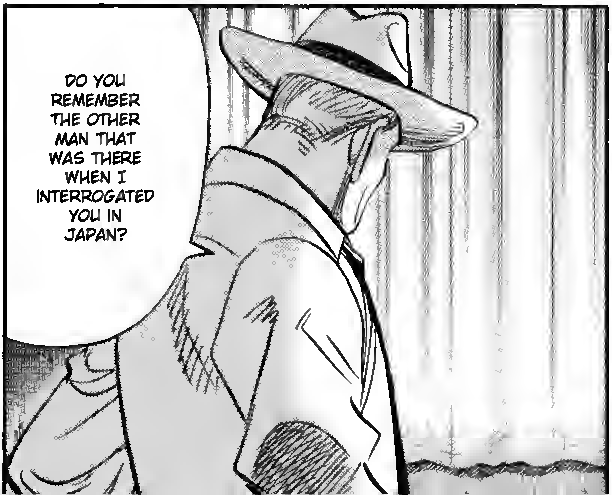
HOO..
?
YEAH... SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS, ONE MIGHT SAY.
A STORY THAT CRAZY HAS GOT TO BE ABOUT THE SOVIETS' PLOTTING!
AM I WRONG? SPIES ARE GONNA COME IN HERE ANY MINUTE, RIGHT?
YOUR NAME IS JUST SMITH...
.. AND YOU BELONG TO A DEPARTMENT THAT IS PLANNING SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS ..
YOUR STORY IS FULL OF BLANKS AND IMPOSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND.
I'VE SEARCHED OUT CITIZENS WITH CONNECTIONS TO THE SOVIETS ONE BY ONE.
FIRST COMES SPY INVESTIGATION.
.....
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT.


AND...
I TRACKED THAT MAN, ...


IN THE END, THERE WAS ONLY ONE MAN LEFT THAT WAS NOT UNDERGOING SURVEILLANCE.

AND... AND THEN WHAT?


YOU EVER HEARD OF DEJA VU?

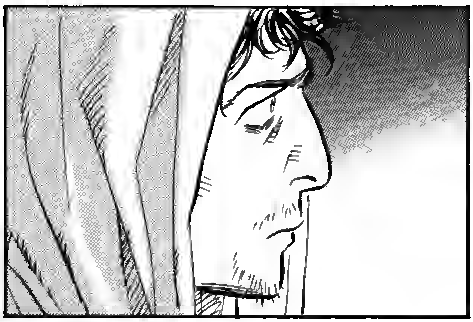

DO YOU REMEMBER THE OTHER MAN THAT WAS THERE WHEN I INTERROGATED YOU IN JAPAN?

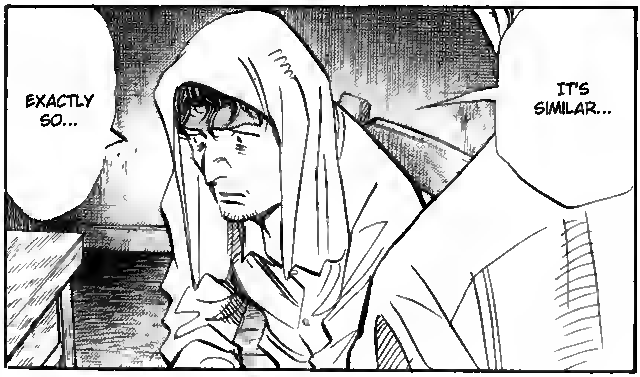
YEAH, IT'S WHEN YOU FEEL WHATEVER YOU'RE EXPERIENCING ALREADY HAPPENED ONCE BEFORE...

Y...YEAH, I THINK HIS NAME WAS FINNEY OR SOMETHING...
...IS SEARCHING FOR THE SAME MAN I AM TRACKING.
YES, THAT FINNEY..
...YOUR NEWEST WORK.
AND SO, AS I WAS ABOUT TO EMBARK, I SPOTTED THIS AT A NEWSSTAND..
BILLY BAT
PLUS

WHY WOULD AN ARTIST CREATE A STORY LIKE THIS, OUT OF ALL THINGS..?
IT'S A COMIC FILLED WITH BIZARRE CONTENTS.
PRIZES
The Adventures of BILLY BAT
PR
...BILLY BAT - - AND MAKE HIM THE MAIN CHARACTER...
AND NOT ONLY THAT, BUT CHOOSE A CHARACTER THAT'S ALREADY WELL-KNOWN ...
YES, IT'S EXACTLY THE SAME.
N ..NO, THAT'S...
IT'S EXACTLY LIKE WHAT THAT JAPANESE ARTIST ZOFULI DID...
BILLY BAT

THE SAME AS WHEN THE SHIMOYAMA INCIDENT OCCURRED IN JAPAN..!!




EXACTLY SO...
IT'S SIMILAR...

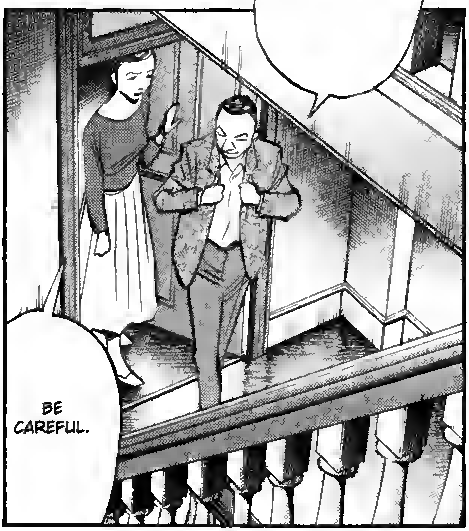
YOU'RE RIGHT...
YES...

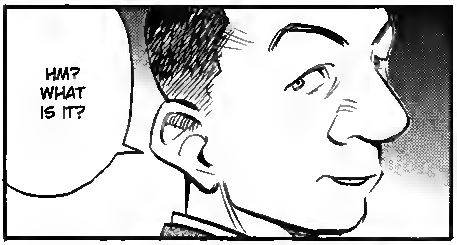
THAT'S WHY...
THAT'S WHY I HATE THIS...
LIKE A CONTINUATION...
I'M AFRAID TO DRAW...
BUT I...
ZOFUU-SENSEI DREW IT...
IT'S...
COMING...
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW...

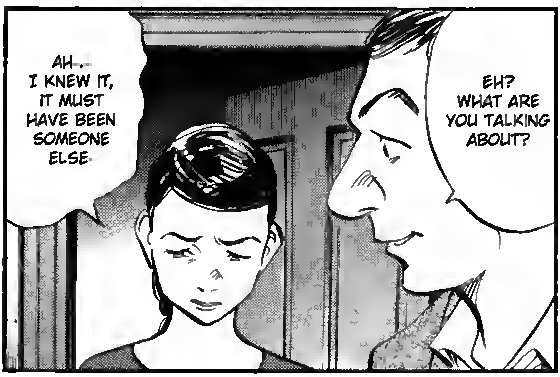
IT..?
IT'S COMING TO ME...

AAAAAAAAAAAHHH!!
AAAAAAAAAAAAHHH!!
WHAT'S WRONG? GET A HOLD OF YOURSELF!!
CALM DOWN, I WON'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU!!
AAAAAAA-AHHHHH!!

UMM... OSWALD...


I'LL BE GOING NOW.
BE CAREFUL.


HM? WHAT IS IT?


AH... I KNEW IT, IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOMEONE ELSE.
EH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

DID YOU..
...GET INTO A FIGHT AGAIN?

...AND IT CAUSED A BIG UPROAR..
...AND SAID YOU GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH AN AUTO DEALER ON KINGS ROAD, ..
WHAT? WHAT'S THIS ABOUT?
A FRIEND I MADE FROM THE WRFS, ANNA, GAVE ME A CALL...
I KNOW ...
I'VE NEVER EVEN BEEN TO ANY AUTO DEALER ON KINGS ROAD.
ME..?
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT..
I'M SERIOUS, IT'S GOTTA BE SOMEONE ELSE.
UH-HUH ...
SEE YOU LATER.

Golden Cola
PSSH
golden cola
AH...
GULP GULP
AH! MR. REYNOLDS!
ARE YOU THE NEW GUY, OSWALD?

THAT WAS A LOUSY THING FOR YOU TO DO, Y'KNOW.
WHAT WAS?

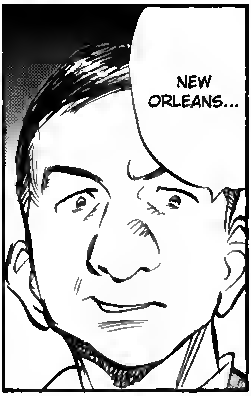
HUH..?
WE'RE CONNECTED TO THE NATIONAL MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT, Y'KNOW, SO THERE'S THINGS YOU CAN DO AND THERE'RE THINGS YOU JUST CAN'T.

I SAW YA, PAL.
BUT I WON'T TELL THE GUYS UPSTAIRS, SO JUST DON'T DO IT AGAIN.

ENOUGH WITH THE FUNNY BUSINESS, PAL!
I WAS IN NEW ORLEANS ON A BUSINESS TRIP YESTERDAY.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

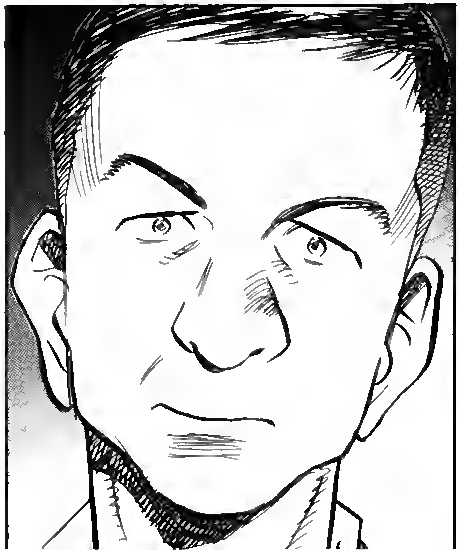
I SAW YOU HANDING OUT THOSE CASTRO SUPPORT FLIERS ON THE STREET!


NEW ORLEANS...

OH REALLY?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I WAS HERE IN DALLAS YESTERDAY... I CAME TO WORK LIKE USUAL!
REALLY!!

PLEASE, LOOK AT MY TIME CARD! IF I HAD GONE TO NEW ORLEANS MY TIME CARD WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN PUNCHED!!

.. SO I SPENT A LOT OF TIME OUTSIDE, BUT...
I WAS TOLD TO MAKE IT SO I COULD DRAW A MAP OF DALLAS IN MY HEAD, ...

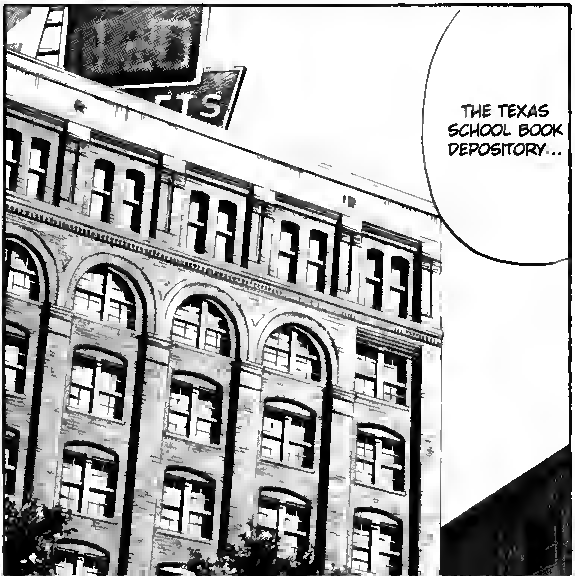


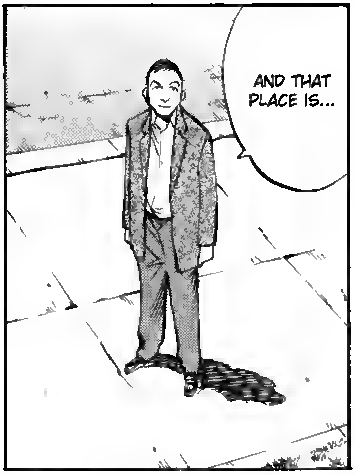
...DO YOU HAVE A TWIN..?
WELL IN THAT CASE..

ERTZ
T A CAR

..AND THAT'S ELM STREET.

THIS IS MAIN STREET ...


THE TEXAS SCHOOL BOOK DEPOSITORY...


AND THAT PLACE IS...

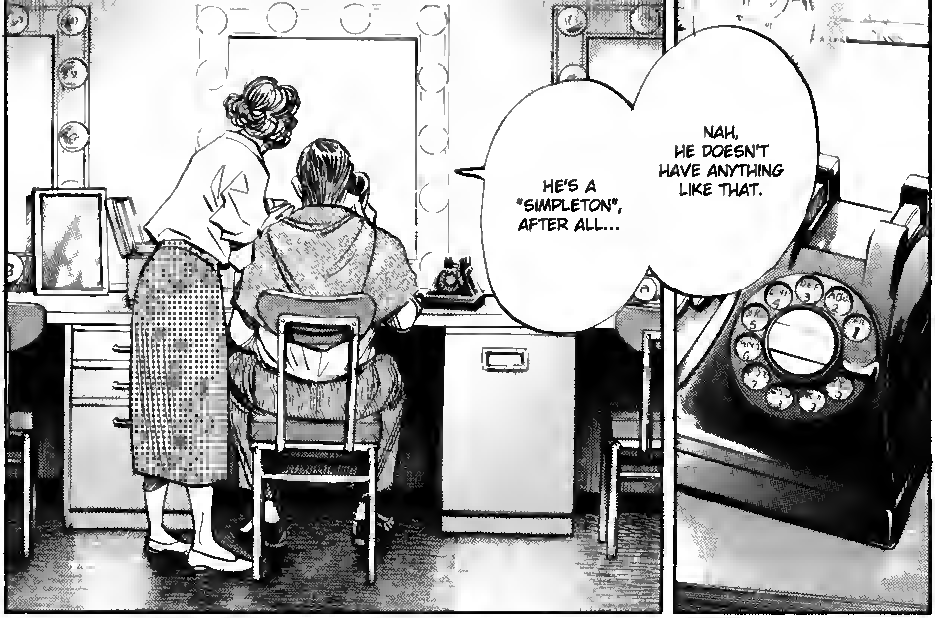
'SCUSE ME, SIR!
HUH?
YOUR CHANGE.
THIS IS TOO MUCH FOR A TIP. YOU FORGET YOUR CHANGE?
YOU WERE STARING OUT AT ELM STREET FROM INSIDE THAT CAFE, RIGHT?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT..?

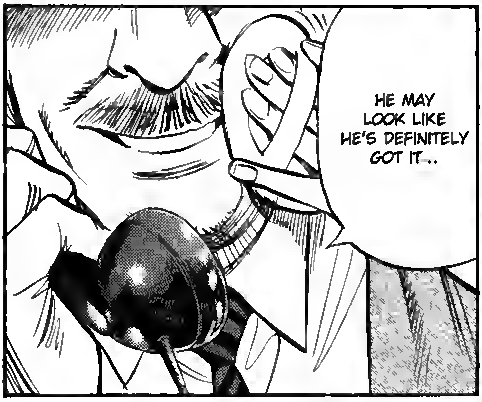
AH...NO, W...WAIT A MINUTE!!
HERE'S YOUR CHANGE.
TH...THIS ISN'T MINE.
SO I CAN'T ACCEPT IT.
REALLY, I'VE NEVER EVEN BEEN INSIDE THAT CAFE.
YOU KNOW ABOUT DOPPEL-GANGERS?

A PHENOMENON WHERE THE SAME PERSON APPEARS TWICE IN DIFFERENT PLACES AT THE SAME TIME
DOPPEL...
GANGER...
AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT KINDA PEOPLE THAT HAPPENS TO?
THAT MUSTA BEEN IT.
NO...
N-NO, IT CAN'T BE...
DOPPELGANGERS HAPPEN TO PEOPLE WHO CARRY GREAT AMBITION

YOU'RE GOING TO BECOME A HERO!!

YES... WE FOUND HIM.
OSWALD IS IN DALLAS
THAT'S RIGHT.
IN DALLAS
THE SCROLL ...
WE ARE STILL INVESTIGATING WHETHER OR NOT HE HAS THE SCROLL. HOWEVER


HE'S A "SIMPLETON", AFTER ALL...
NAH, HE DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT.

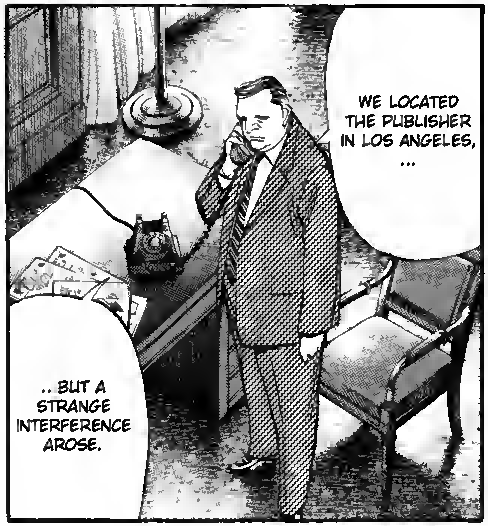

HE MAY LOOK LIKE HE'S DEFINITELY GOT IT...

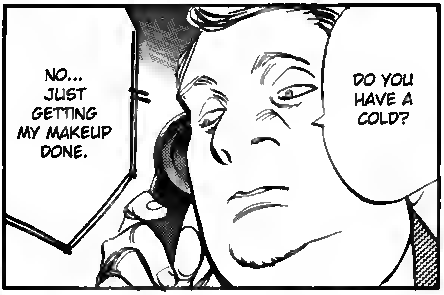
THAT'S RIGHT.
A "SIMPLETON" SIR..?

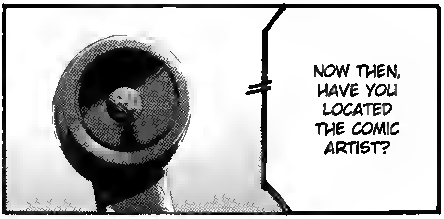
MORE IMPORTANTLY ...
...BUT THAT'S THE TYPE OF PERSON HE IS.

WAACHOO!!
THE YOU-KNOW-WHOS..

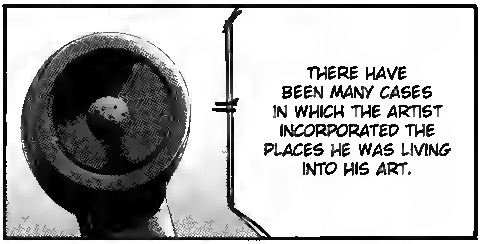
THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT THE YOU-KNOW-WHOS MAY BE CONTROLLING HIM.

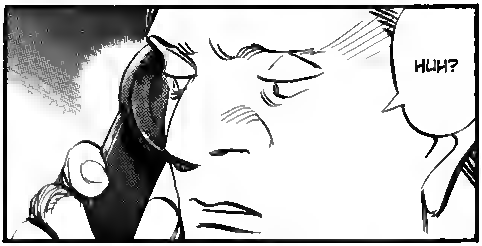

WE LOCATED THE PUBLISHER IN LOS ANGELES, ...
.. BUT A STRANGE INTERFERENCE AROSE.


DO YOU HAVE A COLD?
NO... JUST GETTING MY MAKEUP DONE.

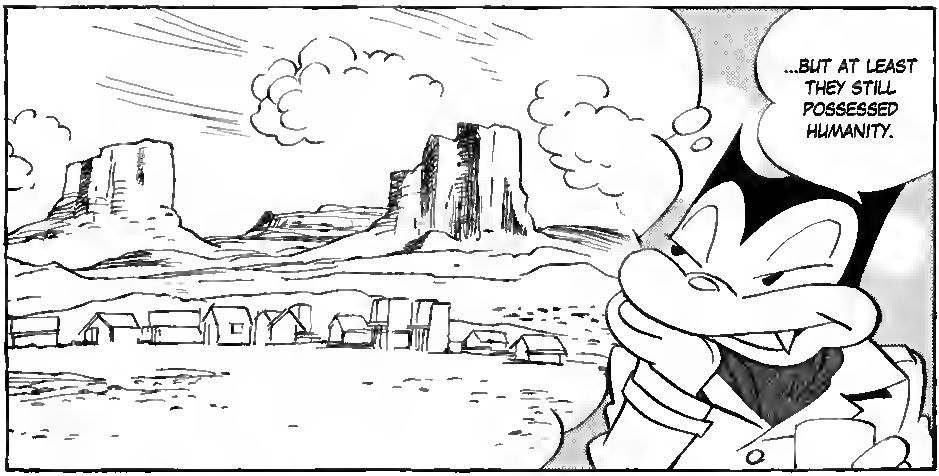

NOW THEN, HAVE YOU LOCATED THE COMIC ARTIST?

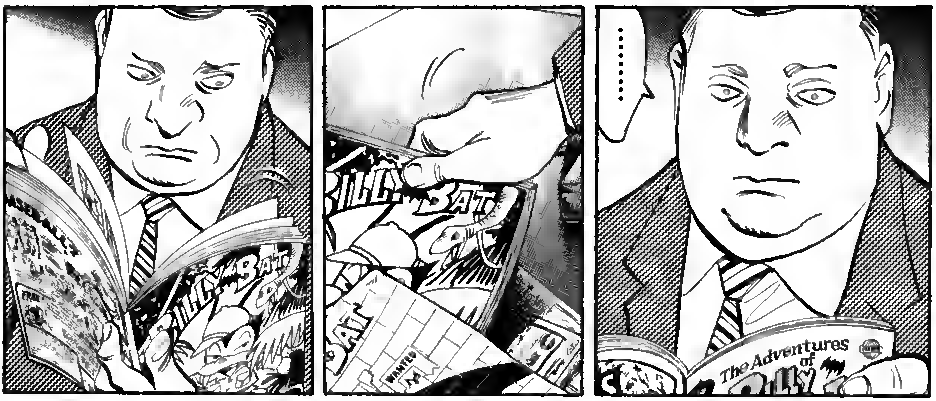
HE HAS A TENDENCY TO PUT HIS SURROUNDINGS IN HIS COMICS.


THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CASES IN WHICH THE ARTIST INCORPORATED THE PLACES HE WAS LIVING INTO HIS ART.


HUH?

.....
GA-CHAK
IN ANY CASE, SEARCH OUT THE WHEREABOUTS OF THAT ARTIST BEFORE YOU DEAL WITH OSWALD.
IS THAT SO...
BAIT
The Adventures of Bilko
YEAH, THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING IN THAT DESERT TOWN I VISITED ONCE UPON A TIME...
YOU'RE PULLIN' MY LEG.
THIS TOWN IS A HARDER PLACE TO LIVE IN THAN THE DESERT!

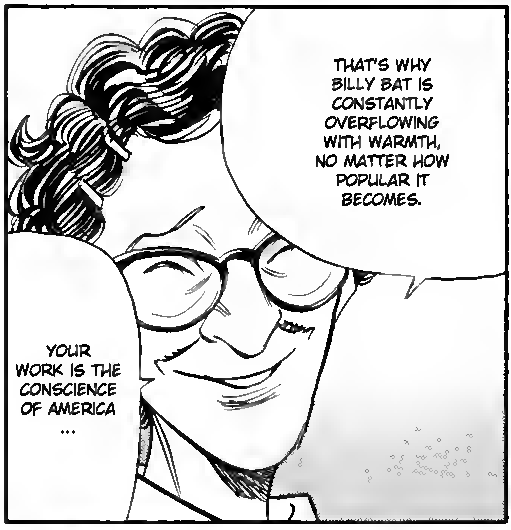

...BUT AT LEAST THEY STILL POSSESSED HUMANITY.


BAT
The Adventures of

Texas Bounty Hunter
Mr. PISTOL HAIR
Goes West
!!

CHAPTER 36 AN ANNUNCIATION TO THE "SIMPLETON"

HOW WONDERFUL.
"A TENDENCY TO PUT ONE'S SURROUNDINGS IN HIS COMICS ..."


YOUR WORK IS THE CONSCIENCE OF AMERICA ...
THAT'S WHY BILLY BAT IS CONSTANTLY OVERFLOWING WITH WARMTH, NO MATTER HOW POPULAR IT BECOMES.

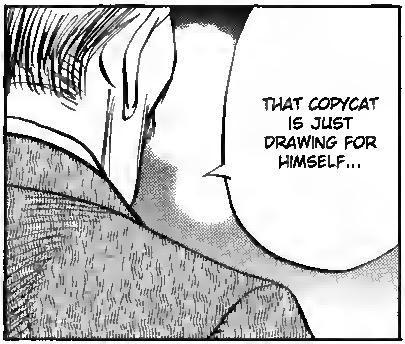
THAT'S JUST HOW I FELT AFTER HEARING THE SECRET TO THE BIRTH OF YOUR COMICS.
HMM?

KNOCK KNOCK
SORRY, I JUST...

IT'S ALRIGHT, KATE. I APPRECIATE YOUR WORDS.
OH, I'M SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO LISTEN IN ON YOUR CONVER-SATION..!!

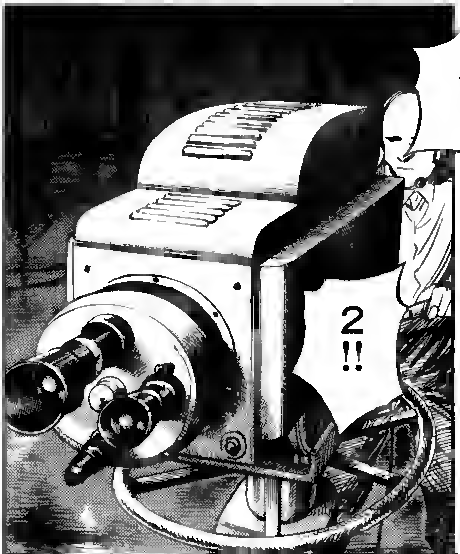
ALRIGHT, LET'S GO!!
AH... YOUR NECKTIE ...
TIME'S UP!!
STUDIO A
KLAK
KLAK
WHAT A PICKLE THIS IS.
YOU GOT YOUR ATTORNEY MOVING, RIGHT?
I'M SURE MY READERS WILL BE ABLE TO DISCERN THE REAL ONE
ESPECIALLY THE YOUNG ONES...
WELL? DID YOU FIND THE ARTIST OF THE FAKE BILLY YET?
KLAK
NOT QUITE.
KLAK
KLAK

BUT I'M ALWAYS TALKING WITH BILLY AND DRAWING HIM FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN.


THAT COPYCAT IS JUST DRAWING FOR HIMSELF...

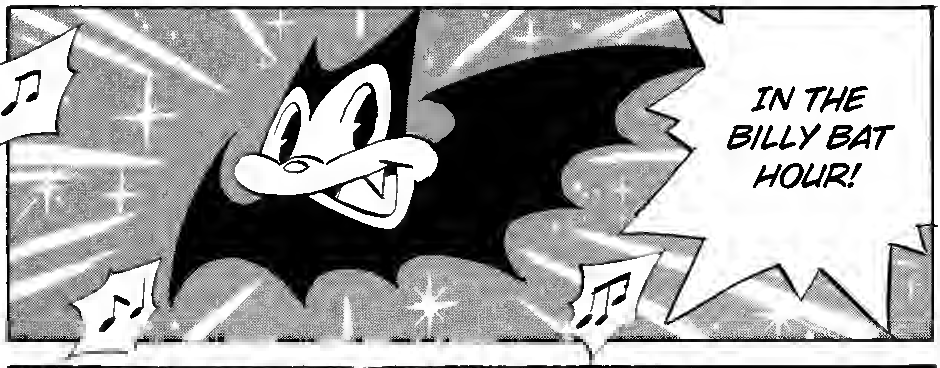
GOING ON AIR!!

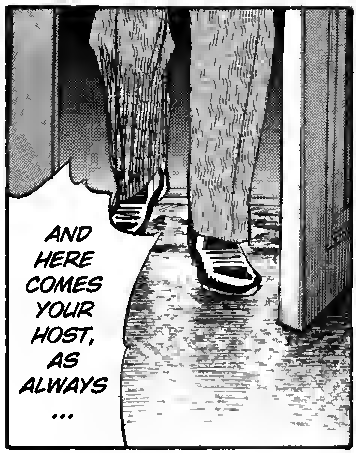
FANTASTIC..!!

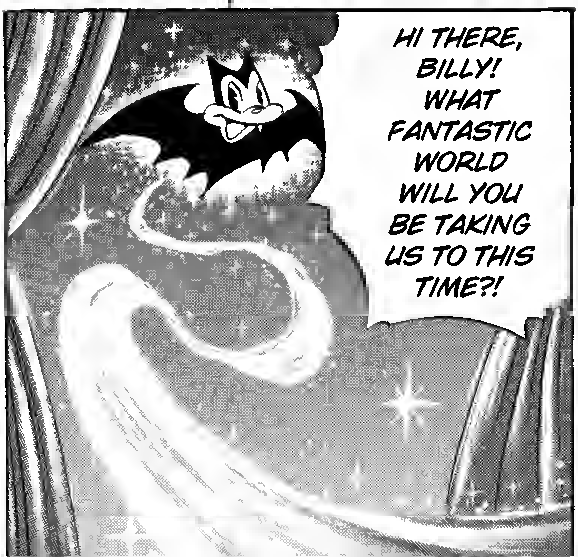

3 !!
2 !!

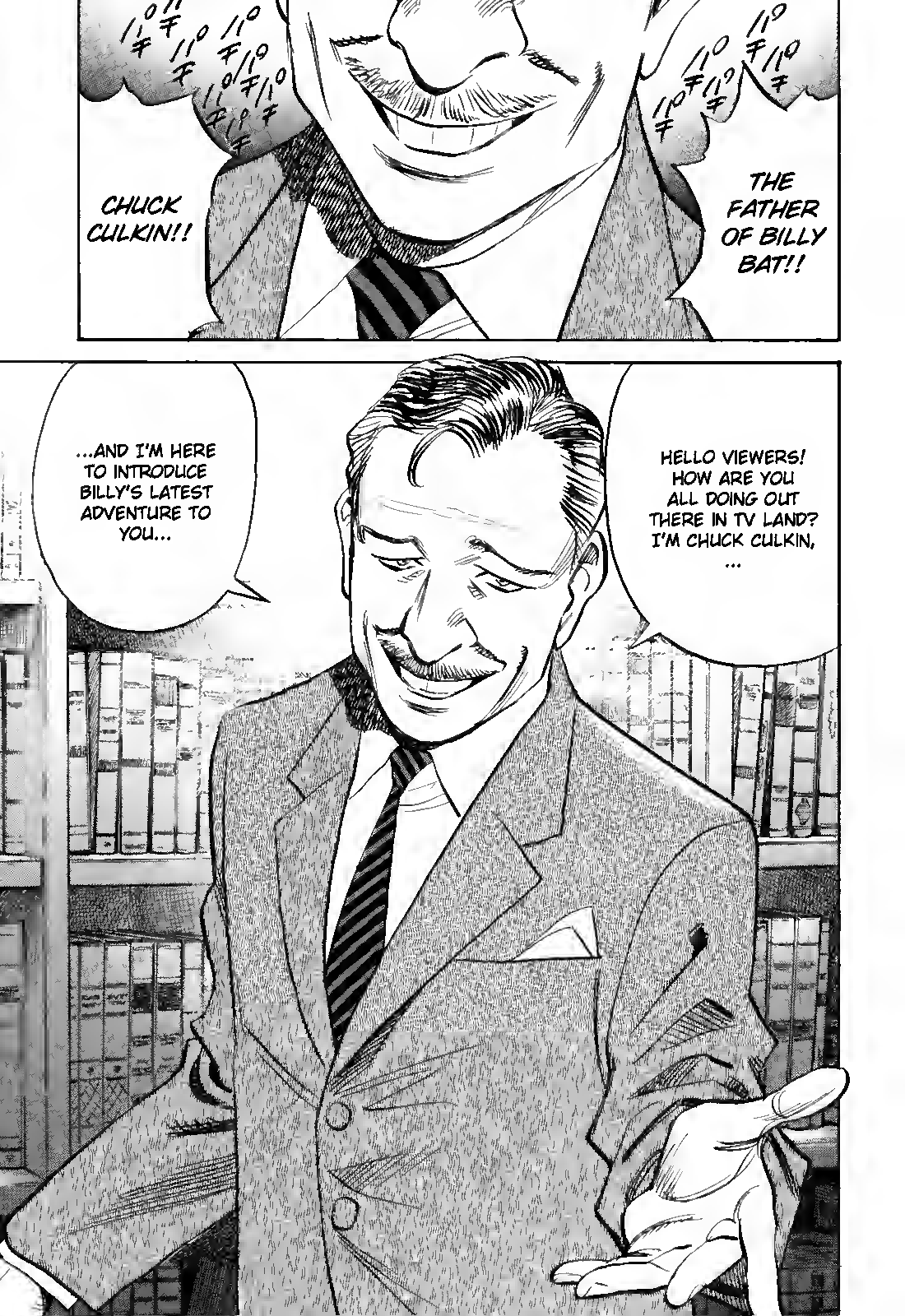
ON AIR!!

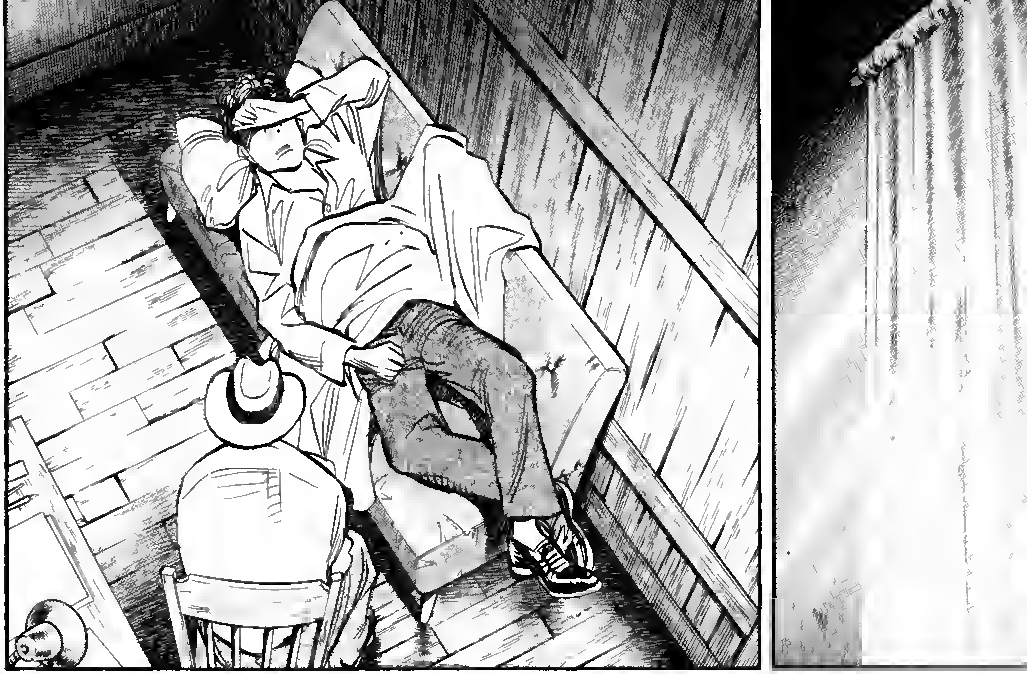
IT'S TIME FOR YOUR WEEKLY DOSE OF DREAMS AND ADVENT-URE!!
SNAP SNAP SNAP

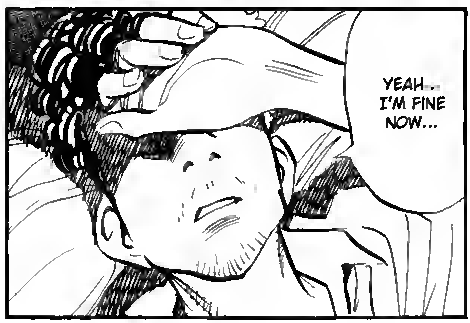

IN THE BILLY BAT HOUR!


AND HERE COMES YOUR HOST, AS ALWAYS ...


HI THERE, BILLY! WHAT FANTASTIC WORLD WILL YOU BE TAKING US TO THIS TIME?!

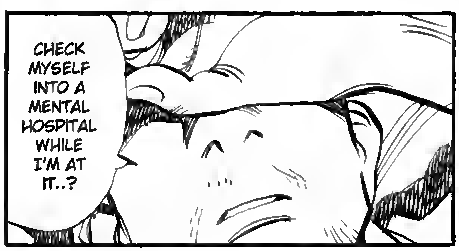

CHUCK CULKIN!!
THE FATHER OF BILLY BAT!!
...AND I'M HERE TO INTRODUCE BILLY'S LATEST ADVENTURE TO YOU...
HELLO VIEWERS! HOW ARE YOU ALL DOING OUT THERE IN TV LAND? I'M CHUCK CULKIN, ...

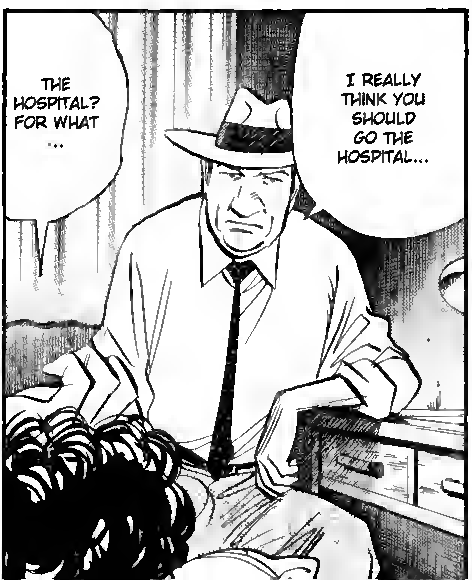



YEAH... I'M FINE NOW...

CALMED DOWN A BIT?

WELL, YOU KNOW... TO DETOX, AND...


CHECK MYSELF INTO A MENTAL HOSPITAL WHILE I'M AT IT..?


THE HOSPITAL? FOR WHAT ...
I REALLY THINK YOU SHOULD GO THE HOSPITAL...

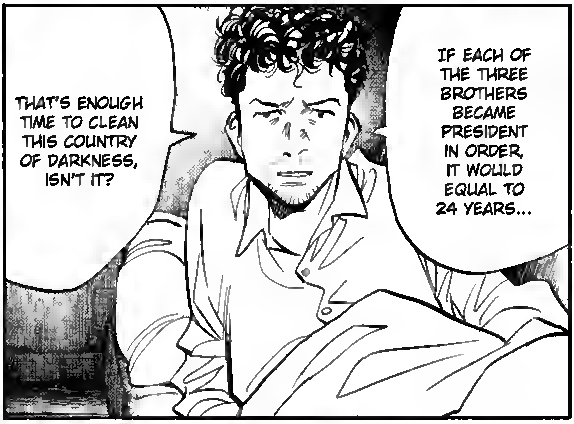
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU?
WHEN I'M SOBER, THE BAT APPEARS.
I DON'T THINK SO.
THAT MIGHT HELP
THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE IT SO THAT I DON'T SEE HIM . .
WHEN I'M IN CONTROL OF MYSELF, HE SHOWS UP.
THERE'S A DEPARTMENT WHERE I WORK THAT'S FOCUSED ON STUDYING PEOPLE LIKE YOU.
HOLD ON A MOMENT.
...IS TO JUST KEEP GOING CRAZY LIKE THIS!!

NO.
THAT STUFF HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ME.
THERE, THEY CALL PEOPLE LIKE YOU "ESPERS"...
PEOPLE WHO CAN MOVE OBJECTS WITHOUT TOUCHING THEM, CAN SEE THINGS OTHERS CAN'T, OR PREDICT THINGS...
I DON'T HAVE AN ABILITY OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
THE BAT JUST SHOWS UP AND THEN STARTS TELLING ME THINGS.
WHEN DID THIS START, ANYWAY?
IT BEGAN...
WHEN I THOUGHT UP THE CHARACTER BILLY BAT...

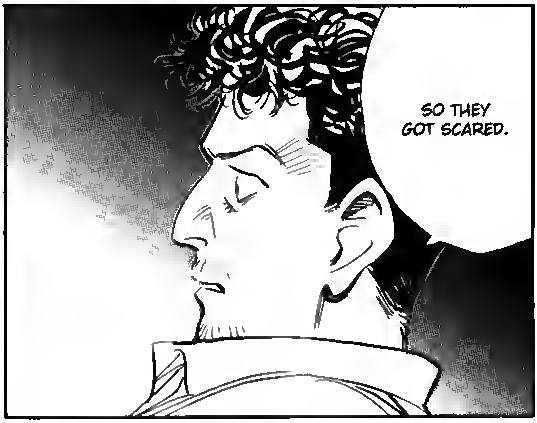
LIKE..?
HE WAS FUN TO DRAW...
AND REALLY EASY TO AS WELL. THE LINES AND DRAMA JUST KEPT COMING AND COMING... IT WAS LIKE..
BUT...
COMIC ARTISTS OFTEN SAY THIS. THAT CHARACTERS WHO ARE EASY TO DRAW...
..ALMOST FEEL LIKE THEY'RE ALIVE, AND ARE MOVING AND SPEAKING ON THEIR OWN ..
AFTER A CERTAIN POINT...
...IT REALLY DID START TALKING ON ITS OWN...
.....
YEAH... ALL OF A SUDDEN, HE APPEARED ...

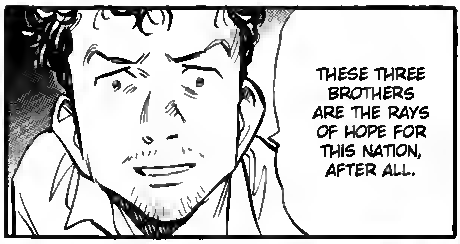
...WHO WOULD WORK TOGETHER WITH HIM TO SWEEP AWAY ALL OF THIS COUNTRY'S DARKNESS...
AND HOW HE HAD TWO SMART BROTHERS BEHIND HIM...

TALKING ABOUT HOW THE SON OF ONE OF THE RICHEST BUSINESSMEN IN THE WORLD WOULD BECOME PRESIDENT IN THE WINK OF AN EYE ...

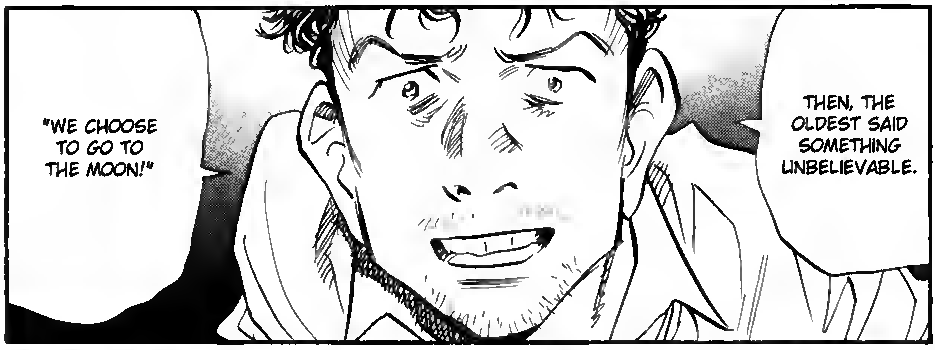

THAT'S ENOUGH TIME TO CLEAN THIS COUNTRY OF DARKNESS, ISN'T IT?
IF EACH OF THE THREE BROTHERS BECAME PRESIDENT IN ORDER, IT WOULD EQUAL TO 24 YEARS...

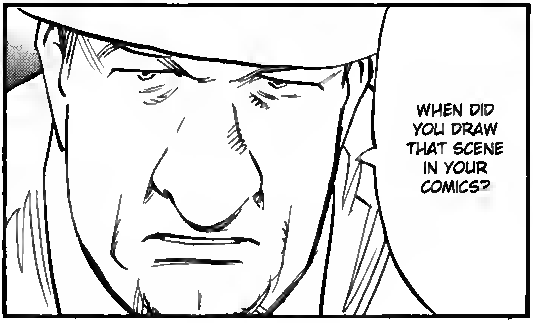
THEY..?


SO THEY GOT SCARED.

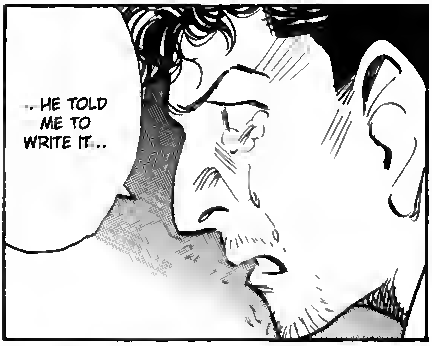

THESE THREE BROTHERS ARE THE RAYS OF HOPE FOR THIS NATION, AFTER ALL.

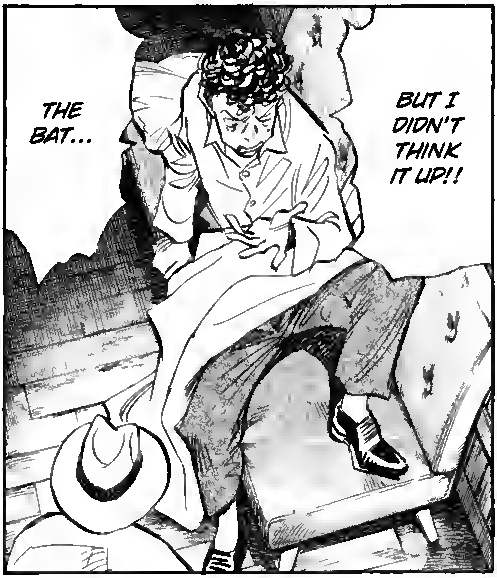
THEM. THE ONES WHO NEED DARKNESS IN THIS WORLD.

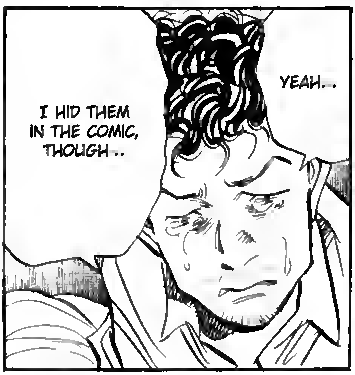

"WE CHOOSE TO GO TO THE MOON!"
THEN, THE OLDEST SAID SOMETHING UNBELIEVABLE.


WHEN DID YOU DRAW THAT SCENE IN YOUR COMICS?

OVER TEN YEARS AGO ...

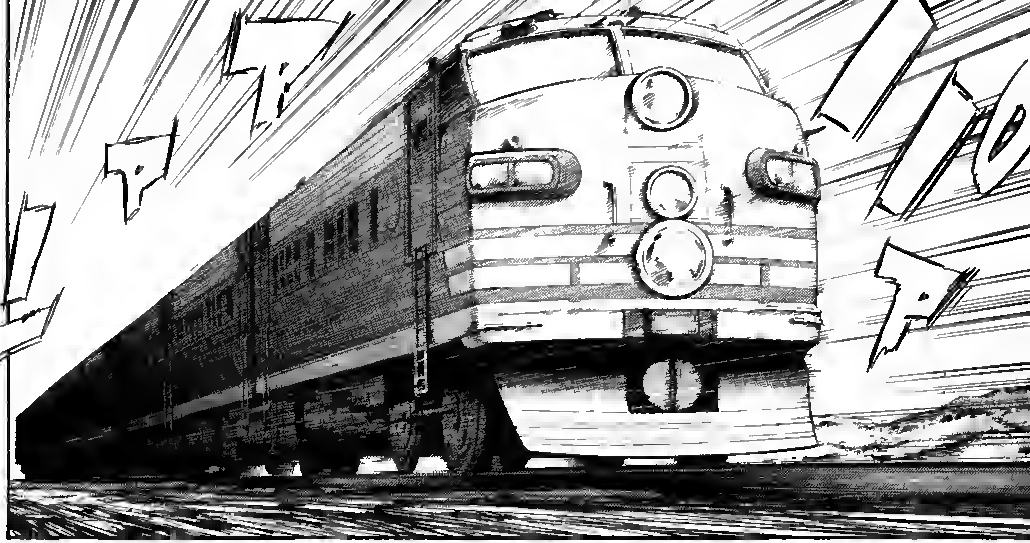

.. HE TOLD ME TO WRITE IT..


THE BAT...
BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT UP!!

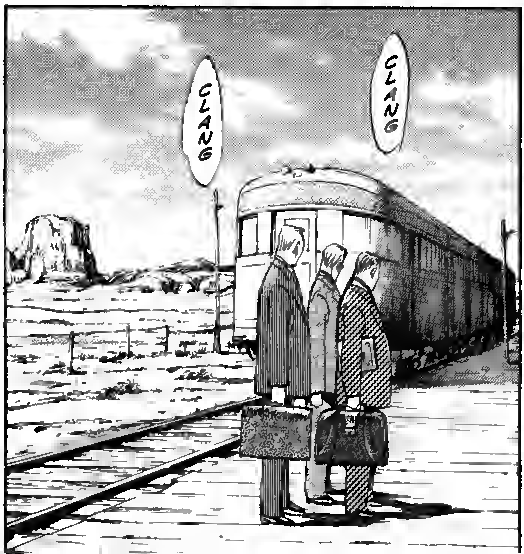

YEAH..
I HID THEM IN THE COMIC, THOUGH ..

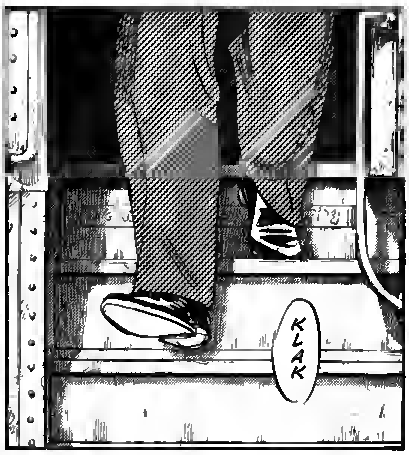
AND YOU'VE KNOWN THE NAMES OF THOSE THREE BROTHERS FOR ALL THIS TIME?

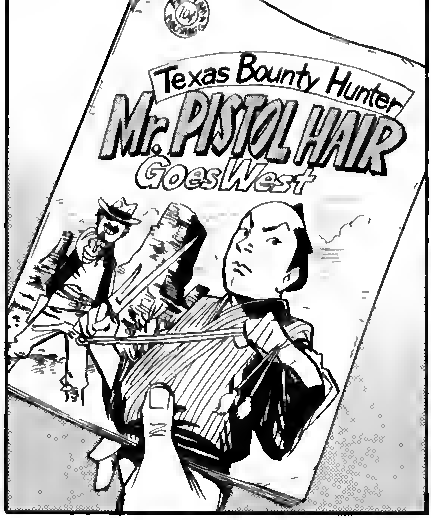
KENNEDY...

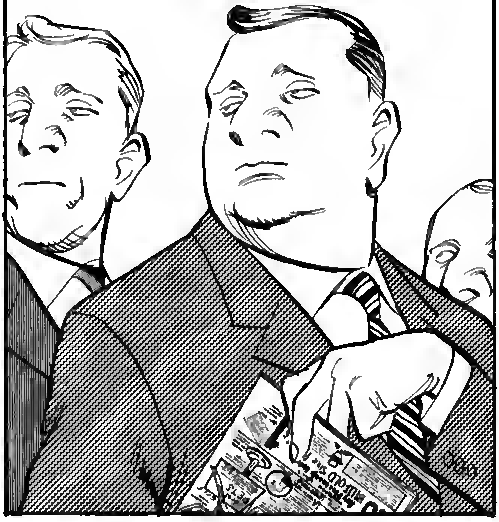


CLANG
PSSSSSSH
CLANG

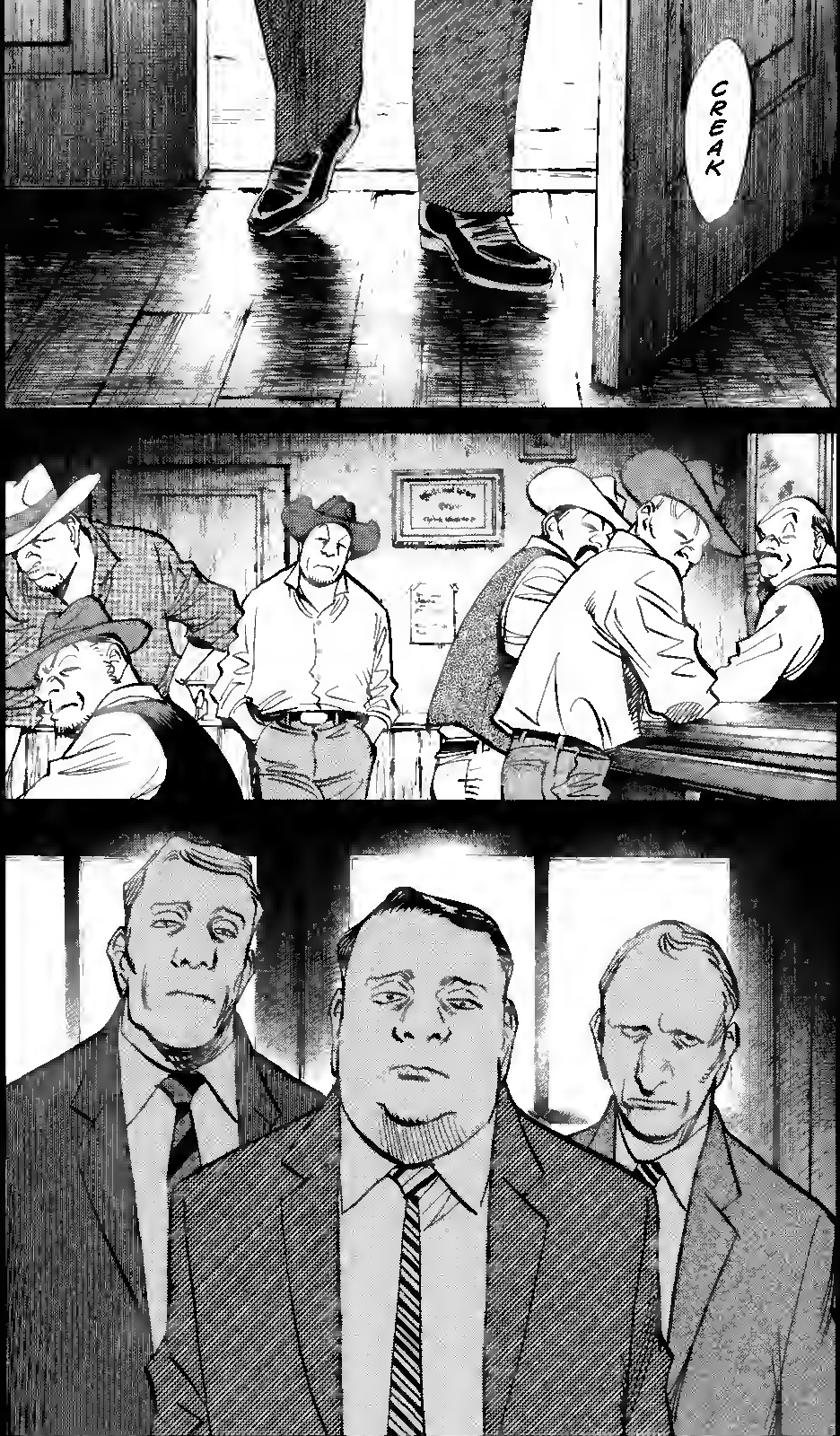

CLANG
CLANG

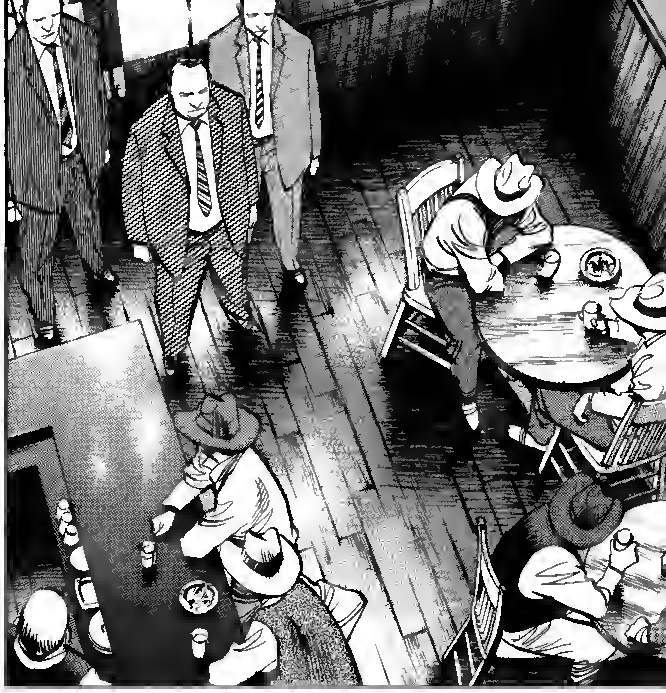

KLAK


Texas Bounty Hunter
Mr. PISTOL HAIR
Goes West



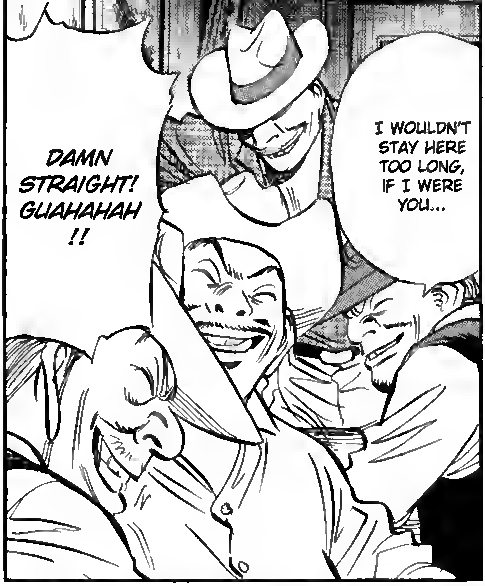
SLIP
NO COST
Bounty Hunter
LOOKS JUST LIKE THE SET OF A WESTERN.


CREAK



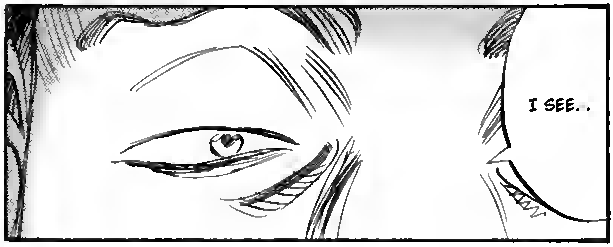
THERE SHOULD BE A JAPANESE COMICS ARTIST LIVING IN THIS TOWN. .

OH YEAH? I AIN'T NEVER SEEN NO JAPS 'ROUND HERE.


DAMN STRAIGHT! GUAHAHAH !!
I WOULDN'T STAY HERE TOO LONG, IF I WERE YOU...

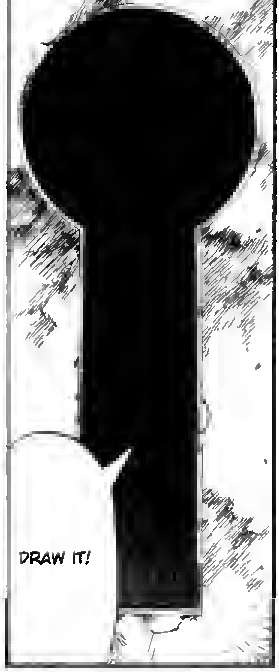
IS THAT HOTEL OVER THERE THE ONLY ONE YOU HAVE HERE?

YUP
SHOULD BE ALMOST FULL, THOUGH.


I SEE..

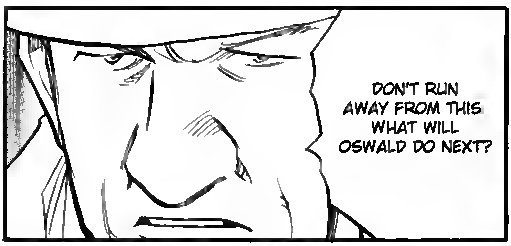
CHAPTER 37 THE DECISION AT 20:10

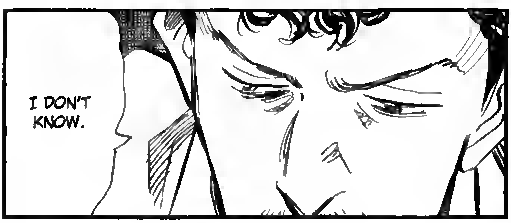
DRAW THE CONTINUATION.


DRAW IT!

I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT.

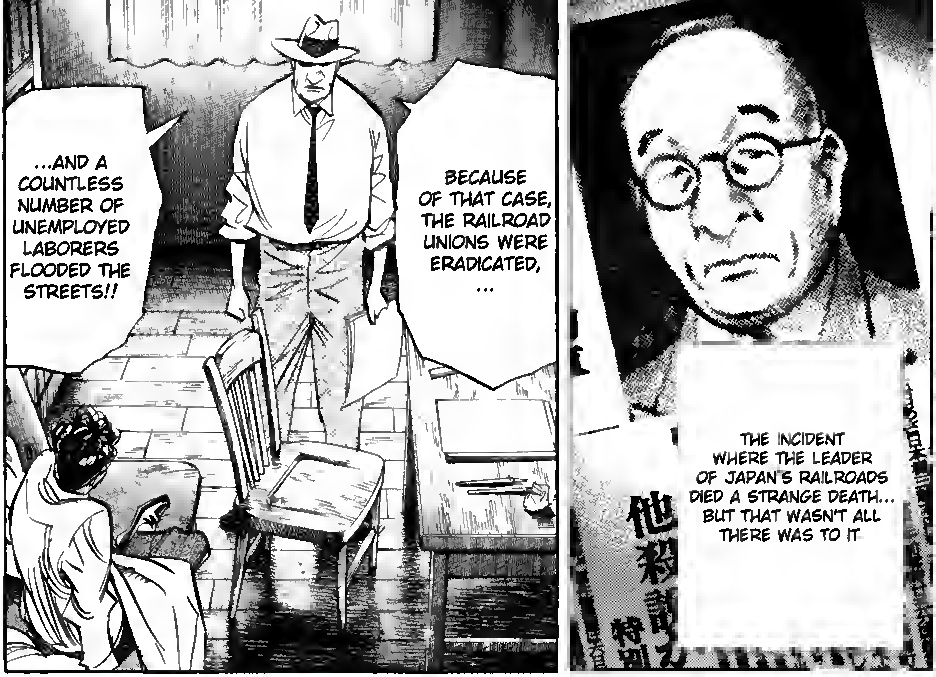
NO...

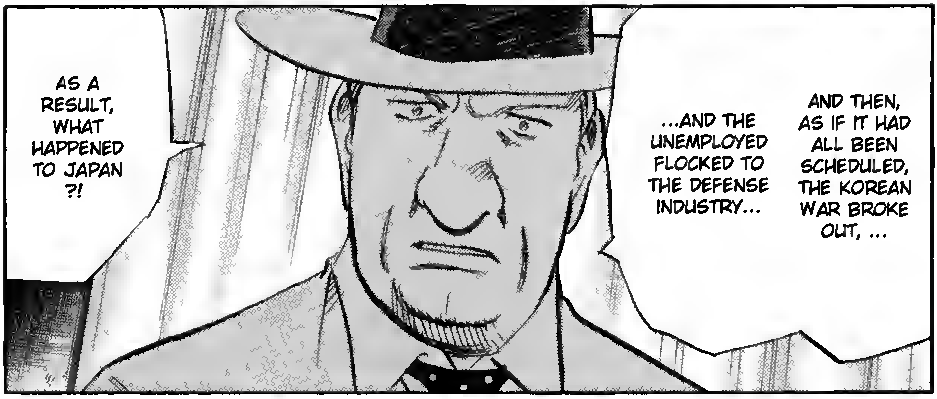

DON'T RUN AWAY FROM THIS WHAT WILL OSWALD DO NEXT?


I DON'T KNOW.

AND I'M SAYING NO!

BESIDES, NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I DRAW OSWALD, I CAN'T GET HIS CHARACTER DOWN!!
HOW COULD I DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT?!
YOU'VE ALREADY SEEN IN YOUR HEAD WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO OSWALD, RIGHT?!
LEAVE ME ALONE!!
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU AREN'T FACING THE BAT PROPERLY!!
YES
I SEE
.....
THIS WILL TURN OUT JUST LIKE THE SHIMOYAMA CASE.


BECAUSE OF THAT CASE, THE RAILROAD UNIONS WERE ERADICATED, ...
...AND A COUNTLESS NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED LABORERS FLOODED THE STREETS!!
THE INCIDENT WHERE THE LEADER OF JAPAN'S RAILROADS DIED A STRANGE DEATH... BUT THAT WASN'T ALL THERE WAS TO IT

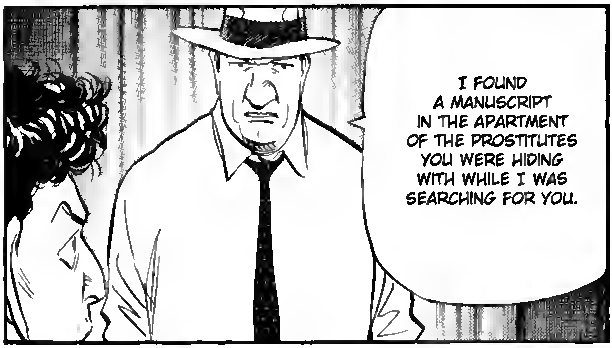

AND THEN, AS IF IT HAD ALL BEEN SCHEDULED, THE KOREAN WAR BROKE OUT, ...
...AND THE UNEMPLOYED FLOCKED TO THE DEFENSE INDUSTRY...
AS A RESULT, WHAT HAPPENED TO JAPAN ?!

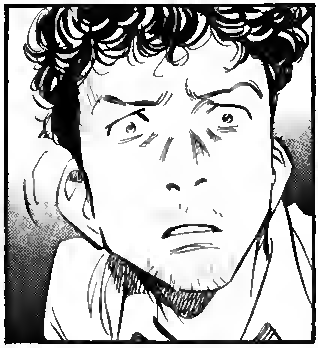
IT BECAME UTTERLY DEPENDENT ON AMERICA.

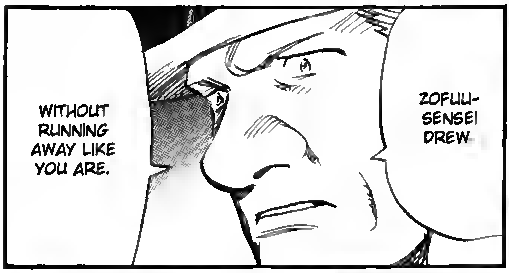
THAT WAS ZOFUU-SENSEI'S ...

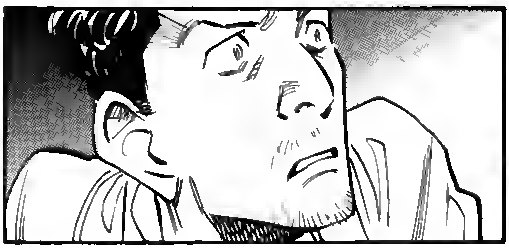
THAT..!!
THAT WASN'T MY FAULT...

YES...
I READ THAT COMIC WHEN I WAS IN JAPAN.


I FOUND A MANUSCRIPT IN THE APARTMENT OF THE PROSTITUTES YOU WERE HIDING WITH WHILE I WAS SEARCHING FOR YOU.




ZOFUU-SENSEI DREW
WITHOUT RUNNING AWAY LIKE YOU ARE.



何か騒いだかなァ
UNFORTUNATELY, THAT MANUSCRIPT NEVER SAW THE LIGHT OF DAY...

I CAN'T DO IT! I CAN'T BECOME STRONG LIKE ZOFULL-SENSEI!
N...NO!!
NOW GET TO YOUR DESK AND DRAW!!

WHO THE HELL ARE YOU, ANYWAY ?!
IT'LL BE TOO LATE ONCE A HISTORY-CHANGING EVENT LIKE THE SHIMOYAMA CASE STARTS !!

AT LEAST TELL ME YOUR REAL NAME, DAMMIT!!
AND THAT 'SMITH' NAME YOU GAVE ME IS MOST LIKELY A FAKE!!
I HAVEN'T EVEN THE SLIGHTEST CLUE WHO OR WHAT YOU WORK FOR!!

THE WOMAN I FELL IN LOVE WITH IN JAPAN...
...DIED BECAUSE OF ME!!
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ANYONE.
OF COURSE NOT!!
BUT I BELIEVED YOU.
OF COURSE I DON'T BELIEVE ANYONE!!
THAT A BAT APPEARED AND TOLD YOU THE FUTURE... AN UTTERLY ABSURD STORY !!
.....
I BELIEVED THAT RIDICULOUS STORY OF YOURS.

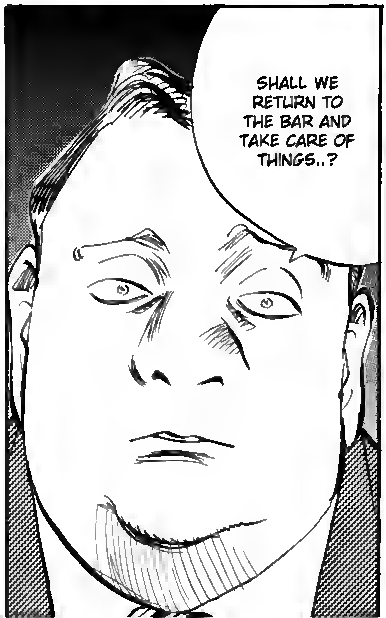
YOU THINK YOU CAN GO ON LIVING THE REST OF YOUR LIFE WITHOUT BELIEVING ANYONE?
OR CAN YOU BELIEVE ME NOW?
DECIDE.
THE PRESIDENT MIGHT DIE!!

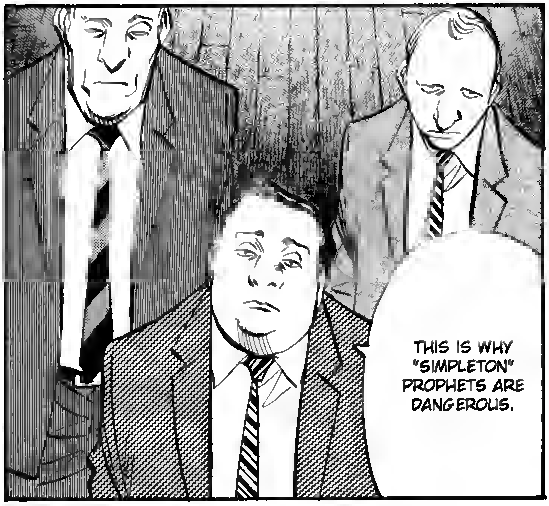
BAM
?
LOOK, THERE IT IS..
YOU CAN SEE IT, CAN'T YOU?

SEE WHAT..?
HIM.
AHH...
YEAH...
AHH...
.....
KNOCK KNOCK
AHH..
.....

SOME WEIRDOS CAME
WELL, WELL...
ASSASSIN
Shimokama

Leave Me Alone
Getaway
Shimokawa
ASSASSIN


SHALL WE RETURN TO THE BAR AND TAKE CARE OF THINGS..?


THIS IS WHY "SIMPLETON" PROPHETS ARE DANGEROUS.

ドドドド…
WHERE'S THE TRAIN?!
IT SHOULD PASS THROUGH THE STATION AT 20:10! IN A LITTLE BIT!!
HOLD ON TIGHT?!

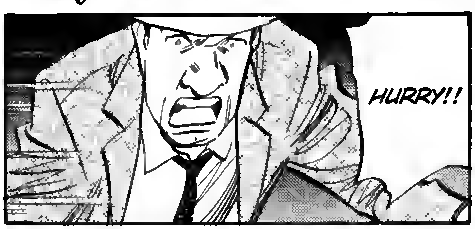
THE TRAIN'S SPEED WILL DROP AROUND THIS NEXT CURVE!!
ドドド ドドド ドドド
AHHH!!
THEY HAVEN'T NOTICED YET!!
AND OUR PURSUERS ?!
HERE IT COMES!!
THE TRAIN!!

LET'S GO! DON'T BE SCARED!!
CLAANG
CLAANG
CLAANG

A!!

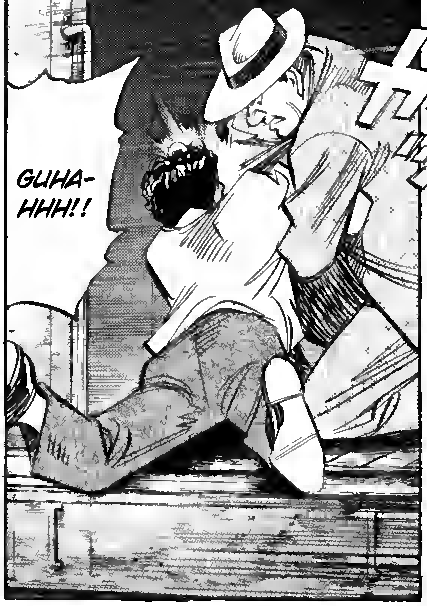
KUH!!

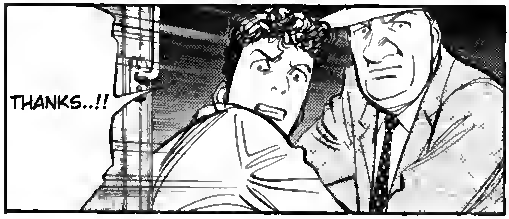
HIIEEE!!


HURRY!!

GO!!
HIE...

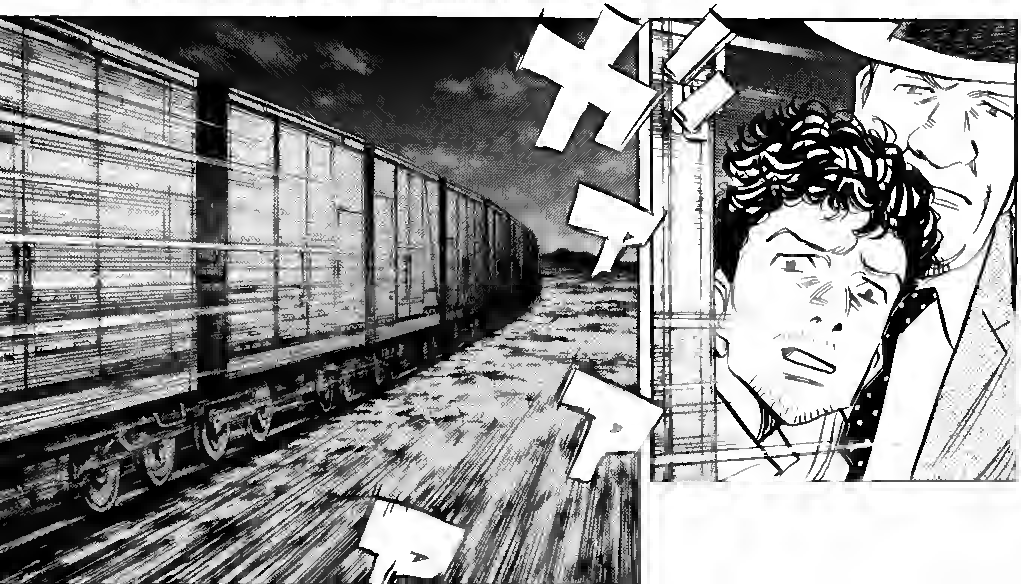
NICE ON, SENSEI!!


GUHA-HHH!!

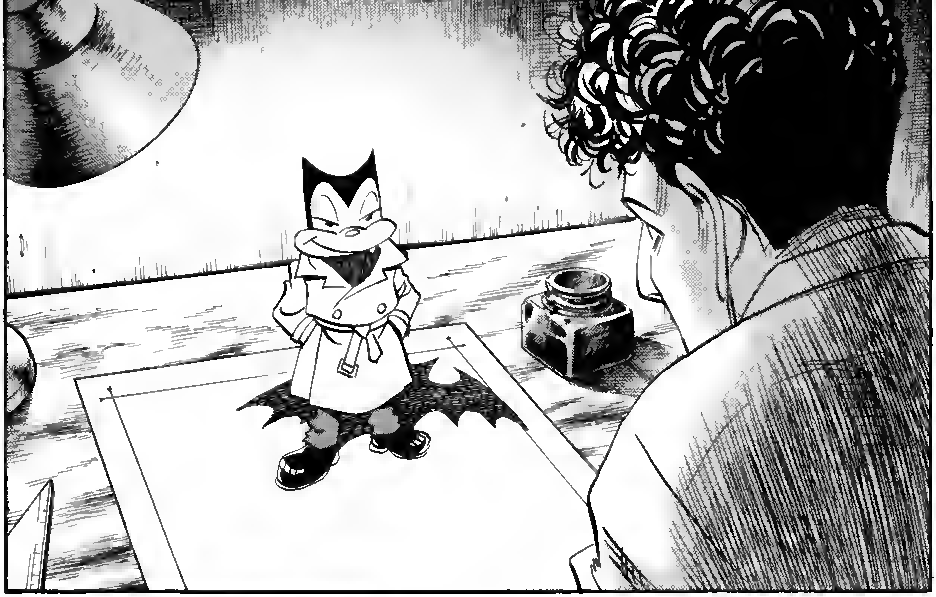

THANKS..!!

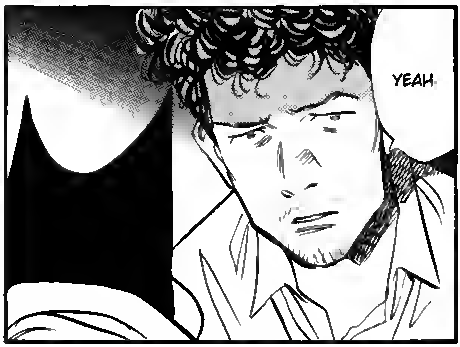
IN EXCHANGE, WE'LL BE AWAITING YOUR NEXT EXCITING COMIC!!

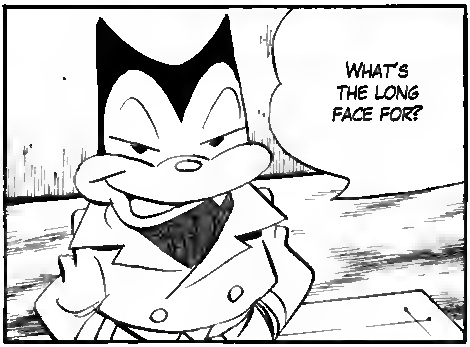
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT !!



CLA-CLACK
CLA-CLACK
CLA-CLACK
CLA-CLACK
CLA-CLACK
WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT EARLIER..?
CLA-CLACK
WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT AT YOUR DESK?
AHH...
EH?
THAT'S HOW HE ALWAYS APPEARS..
CLA-CLACK
CLA-CLACK
YOU COULD SEE HIM, RIGHT?

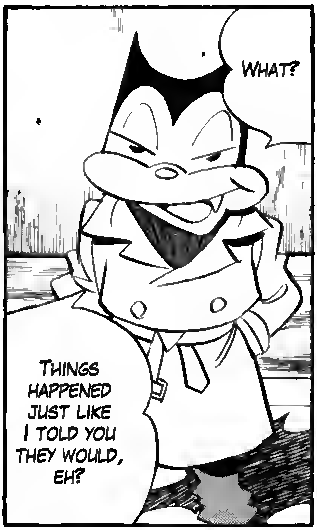



YEAH.


WHAT'S THE LONG FACE FOR?

NOW DRAW.

YEAH. .


WHAT?
THINGS HAPPENED JUST LIKE I TOLD YOU THEY WOULD, EH?

...THEN YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO CHANGE HISTORY.
IF YOU DRAW NOW...

CLA-CLACK
CLA-CLACK

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モーニングKC1922

BILLY BAT ④

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